

CAIRO (AP)—At least four neighbouring apartment buildings on a congested downtown street collapsed Sunday morning, killing at least 10 and leaving an unknown number of buried survivors calling for help, witnesses said. Police evacuated the area, and people in neighbouring buildings were evacuated, fearing further collapses. Inhabitants along the street said they had seen at least 10 bodies being pulled from the rubble. Police confirmed only two and said three-wounded had been found. There also was a conflict over the number of buildings involved. Residents said five fell, but an officer at Al Mosky police station said that four collapsed, two of them vacated by condemnation orders. Officials at the scene said the buildings housed around 25 families, or approximately 125 people. Rescue workers said they heard calls for help from beneath the rubble.

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوربدان نللمز يومية سياسية قصرية بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الرأي.

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانكليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي،

AMMAN (Petra)—A meeting was held on Sunday at the bureau of the General Islamic Conference on Jerusalem to discuss last Wednesday's attempt by a group of Israeli parliamentarians to enter Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The meeting reviewed the situation of the holy mosque and Arab, Islamic and international reactions to Israel's continuous violation of the sanctity of Islamic religious shrines. The meeting also hailed the steadfastness of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories who stopped the Israelis from entering Al Aqsa Mosque and urged Arab and Islamic communities to support them. The protection of Al Aqsa Mosque and the liberation of the occupied territories could never be achieved without Islamic solidarity, participants of the meeting said. The status quo in the region and the continuing Iran-Iraq war prompt Israel in carrying out its aggression against the indigenous people, the meeting heard.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Mr. HANAN (Cairo).—Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Majlis A'la) said: "Mr. Awli has been reappointed to his post by the King of Morocco. Mr. Awli has served as speaker for two years and will serve for another two years under the new appointment, which began Jan. 17. Upon his reappointment, Mr. Awli sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein expressing his gratitude and voicing pride in and total support for the King's leadership. "My reappointment to the post as speaker of the Upper House of Parliament tends to enhance my pride and total confidence in your leadership and in your endeavors to implement the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, designed to create the Arab Nation." Mr. Awli said in his cable.

BOON (X) — The NATO base at Sigonella, Sicily, could become the overseas home for the U.S. 1st Delta Force, the West German magazine Spiegel said Sunday. Spiegel said the problem of sending Delta Force a base closer to the Middle East than its present Fort Bragg, North Carolina, home would figure prominently in confidential talks in Washington this week on improving U.S. special forces.

CAIRO (AP) — The autopsy of a "suicide bomber" Sunday called for any criminal suspicion in the death of the Egyptian policeman who killed seven Israelis during tests have proved that Sergeant Mohamed Khatat hanged himself.

Farahin Mohammed Saleh, secretary for the Justice Ministry, made his comments to the Middle East news agency. The tests performed on the samples of the deceased's stomach and intestines and food (he ate that day) now they did not include any poisons, tranquilizers or drugs, Saleh said.

Tests on the substance underneath his finger nails include blood or human cells," he said, an apparent reference to claims of opposition parties here and abroad that Khatat was murdered.

The autopsy has shown that the cause of the death is suffocation from hanging. (See related story on page 2)

UDUZA, South Africa (R) — S. Javoy Chester Crocker today troubled black township near Johannesburg on Sunday. Hours after a radical community leader scheduled to meet him was killed by political opponents, Mr. Crocker, deviating from his usual program of discussing politics with the government of President P.W. Botha while visiting South Africa, was mobbed by blacks who shook their hands in poverty-stricken Uduza. On Sunday, Angie Mayisa, a 58-year-old community leader from nearby Leandra who was due to meet Mr. Crocker on Sunday, was attacked by a group of conservative blacks. He was stabbed and his body was taken away in a van, his family said. Police

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"In a speech delivered on his behalf at a seminar on Israel and Israeli-American relations, Prince Hassan said that a practical solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict "cannot be achieved without the sublimation of Palestinian rights to self-determination" on their land.

"Israel should respond to United Nations resolutions and withdraw from all territories it occupied in 1967, in return for a just and durable peace for all countries

Jordan an

AMMAN (I.T.) — Jordan and Syria have agreed to maintain direct contacts through their respective security services in order to to intensify their fight against drug smugglers and criminals, and also will hold consultations between provincial governors on border demarcations, Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed said here Sunday.

Mr. Kayed, who returned from Damascus on Thursday, said his talks with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Ghnash and other Syrian officials resulted in an agreement on entrusting joint border posts to handle emergency issues and unity office hours for the sake of providing better service to travellers across the border and trucks transporting goods between them.

"We have also agreed that neither Jordan nor Syria will deport persons of foreign nationality to either country, but would rather return them to the country they came from," the minister said.

It was also agreed that neither

US/CAT, Oman (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe held a session of co-operation talks here on Sunday with Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Youssef Ibn Alawfi, on means of ending the Iran-Iraq war and solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The secretary, who arrived on Saturday as part of a Gulf tour which is to take him later to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, was expected to include the problem of international terrorism in his talks here. British diplomatic sources told the AP.

Sir Geoffrey was to have an audience with Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'ud later in the day, Foreign Ministry officials said.

In the United Arab Emirates, the Al Khaleej newspaper meanwhile quoted Mr. Howe as saying that Britain "sees nothing new it can do" to bring the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war to an end.

But the Gulf conflict, he said, remained the top item on the agenda of any meeting he held with his counterparts in the Gulf.

Responding to a question, Mr. Howe said that diplomatic ties between the Soviet Union and the Arab countries of the Gulf region "is by no means an abnormal development."

He said that the Soviet Union, a superpower, "naturally has an important role to play" in the Gulf region.

Mr. Howe told Al Khaleej that the Middle East peace process was continuing, praising King Hussein for maintaining momentum and stability of the peace drive.

The minister was accompanied on his visit to Syria by Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, Mafraq Governor Fayez Al Abbadi and other officials.

Mr. Kayed said that his visit was designed to bolster ties of common interest between Jordan and Syria in implementation of principles laid down by His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

In a cable he sent to Mr. Ghazab Saturday, Mr. Kayed expressed appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and the Jordanian delegation during the visit, and the fruitful talks held between the two sides.

Mr. Kayed emphasised in his cable the need for pursuing brotherly dialogue to serve the Syrian and Jordanian interests and confront common challenges.

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Senior members of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' cabinet met on Sunday to vote on a proposal to resolve a border dispute with Egypt that Israel hopes will pave the way for progress in Mideast peace efforts.

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. and was expected to continue as long as it took to adopt a final decision on the long-time controversy.

Peres has threatened to resign unless the 10-member inner cabinet agrees to arbitration to resolve the disputed one-square-kilometre Taba beachfront strip along the Red Sea.

The Taba issue is seen as a major roadblock to improving ties with Egypt.

Peres has said that the durability of links between the two countries will determine whether Israel can conclude other agreements with other Arab countries.

Israeli approval of the proposal to resolve Taba, reached with Egypt after months of negotiations, appeared to hinge on face-saving concessions to right-wing Likud governing partners.

The Likud bloc, led by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, has consistently opposed arbitration, warning that it could force Israel to relinquish the northern Sinai area.

Likud deputies accused Peres, leader of the Labour Party, of forcing a show-down to topple the fragile 15-month old governing coalition and thus avoid honouring an agreement that calls for him to give the premiership in October to Shamir.

Peres' deputies said the prime minister's understanding with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak calls for Egypt to return to Tel Aviv the ambassador recalled in 1982 in protest of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Likud Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo said on Israel Radio that the plan to return the ambassador and other Egyptian promises to improve ties must be in writing.

Shamir and the other four Likud members of the inner cabinet were finalising their demands at a last-minute session. One demand was expected to be a commitment from Egypt "to cease cooperation with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation," Milo said.

Labour Party Secretary Uzi Baram warned that Peres could agree only to minor changes that would not require further consultations with the Egyptians.

Columbia takes off at 7th bid

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (Agencies) — Columbia and a crew of seven shed a postponement jinx on Sunday and thundered away from earth and into orbit to kick off America's busiest year in space with the first of 15 scheduled shuttle landings.

The 100-tonne spaceship roared from its seaside launch pad on time at 6:55 a.m. (11:55 GMT) after being delayed a record seven times in three weeks by a series of frustrating mechanical and meteorological setbacks.

On board the first shuttle mission of 1986 were U.S. Congressman Bill Nelson and the first Hispanic-American astronaut.

DUTCH GUESTS LEAVE: Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands shakes hands with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai as Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath looks on as the queen and her husband Prince Klaus (to the queen's right) leave.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops maintained a curfew in the central marketplace of Nablus in the occupied West Bank on Sunday after arresting an unknown number of Palestinians in connection with an ambush on Saturday in which an Israeli policeman was killed and another was wounded.

Five Palestinians, including three women, were wounded by gunfire as Israeli troops opened fire at the spot of attack on Saturday but the Israeli army contended on Sunday that the five were hurt by ricochets and rock fragments.

Three different Palestinian factions — two of them opposed to the leadership of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat — claimed responsibility for the Nabhus attack.

The Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, carried a statement by the mainstream PLO leadership saying that a unit named "Hamam al-

ABU DHABI (R) — Iranian naval personnel boarded and searched a U.S. cargo ship in the Gulf of Oman on Sunday, the first such incident involving an American vessel in the Gulf war.

An officer aboard the ship, the President Tyler owned by the American President Line, said it was stopped by an Iranian naval vessel at 10 a.m. (0600 GMT) and boarded 15 minutes later.

Contacted by Reuters on shore-to-ship radio, the officer, who did not identify himself, said Iranian personnel inspected the vessel and then left it at 10:50 a.m. and allowed it to proceed.

The 27,000-tonne container ship dropped anchor off the port of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday afternoon and U.S. embassy officials were expected to question the crew.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the President Tyler was stopped in the Gulf of Oman and released two hours later after an inspection showed no Iraqi-bound cargo was aboard.

There was no indication as to whether American warships that patrol the area intervened. The radio call to the ship was cut before the crew could be questioned on this.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Bruce Ammerman said the ship had been stopped in international waters and the incident was regarded as "a matter of serious concern."

The Iranian news agency, meanwhile, said the West German ship *Ville de Sahara* was released on Sunday after a three-day inspection in an Iranian port.

A West German embassy official in Tehran said the 12,960-tonne container ship was carrying an assorted cargo for various Gulf ports, but nothing for Iraq. Ville de Sahara was the 14th foreign ship conducted to an Iranian port for checks since Iraq started bombing Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island in mid-August.

One claim was made by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of Dr. George Dahmas in a communique issued from Damascus.

The communique said that "PFLP" unit based in occupied territories staged the Nablus operation that resulted in the killing and wounding a number of Israeli troops.

The other claim was made to the Beirut newspaper An Nahar by a breakaway faction from the PLO, the mainstream Fateh organisation headed by Col. Saeed Musa (Abu Musa).

An Nahar said an Arabic-speaking caller in Beirut told the newspaper Abu Musa's "Fateh uprising movement" was responsible for the Nabhus attack.

No details on the operation were given in either claim.

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has extended an invitation to President Ronald Reagan to visit him in his tent headquarters.

"Yes, why not," Colonel Qadhafi told six women journalists during a two-hour interview on Saturday in the tent at his heavily fortified barracks headquarters where he entertains his family as well as world leaders.

"If Reagan comes here, he will change his mind (about Qadhafi)," the 43-year-old Libyan leader asserted. "He would see that I don't live in trenches, wear ring hand grenades in my belt — that it is not that I don't laugh or smile and have no family, and that I hate."

"He would change, I know," he added. "I invite him through you."

Col. Qadhafi made the remarks during an informal session on Saturday night in the tent of red, green and yellow cloth, surrounded for part of the interview by Safiya, his 32-year-old wife and four of his eight children.

Mr. Reagan and Col. Qadhafi

Dutch alert to include Americans

THE HAGUE (AP) — The Abu Nidal extremist alert gripping The Netherlands was expanded Sunday to include U.S. diplomatic and commercial offices as well as Jewish and Israeli institutions, the Dutch Justice Ministry disclosed.

A high alert in both The Netherlands and Scandinavia began Thursday and Friday, with Interpol warnings of a possible strike against Jewish or Israeli targets by gunmen under the direction of the Abu Nidal faction, and believe to be loose in the region.

No extremist-related incidents or arrests were reported in any of the four nations over the weekend, and Scandinavian authorities said Sunday that their original alert continued, but had no

An Israeli source told the *Asahi* that Cpl. Jamil Faris, an Israeli Druze, died at a hospital shortly after the noon-time attack after he stepped out of a clothing store in the commercial centre of Nablus, 18 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

The assault moderately wounded a second Israeli border guard, who was not identified.

The source denied reports in the *Palestine Press Service* which monitors news in the West Bank that Israeli troops opened fire on civilians, but said the soldiers clamped a curfew on the city for its 80,000 inhabitants indoors.

The service also said that the attack occurred when the policemen were travelling in a jeep.

The green-uniformed border policemen are a branch of the military.

He also dubbed him, "a flak barbarian".

Col. Qadhafi, for his part, branded the American leader, "an Israeli dog... a failed actor... and charged him with being the chief source of problems in the Middle East."

The already hostile relations between the United States and Libya took a sharp plunge recently after the Dec. 27 attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports.

The United States and Israel both have accused Libya of supporting Palestinian renegade Abu Nidal, to whose group the airport commandos claimed to belong.

Col. Qadhafi, while maintaining his strong support for the Palestinian cause, has sought to disassociate himself from individual actions, calling the airport attack "unlawful" and conceding that it hurt the Palestinian image.

In his Saturday night interview, Col. Qadhafi cited a report by the Libyan news agency JANA that said the Reagan administration had declared "a state of national emergency... to face the Libyan threat."

spreads to r Rican targets

been expanded to include possible American targets.

The access road to the front of the American embassy in The Hague was blocked by sand-filled dumpsters at each end Sunday night, and police converged on the scene within minutes to investigate the flash of a photographer's camera.

But Dutch authorities warned privately on Sunday that the expanded alert made guarding potential American targets, as well as Israeli and Jewish ones, "practically impossible."

"There had been talk for a few days that American targets could be endangered," said Dutch Justice Ministry spokeswoman Ton Faber.

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.) and the Central Committee of Fateh were scheduled to start a meeting in Baghdad on Sunday or early Monday to discuss the organisation's position on Middle East peace efforts in the light of the latest Palestinian and Arab developments.

Well-informed Palestinian sources said the Baghdad meetings were expected to review developments pertaining to the P.L.O.'s relations with Jordan, the Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement, the U.S.-Libyan crisis and recent talks between senior Soviet officials and the head of the P.L.O.'s political department.

P.L.O. Chairman Yasser Arafat was in Qatar on Sunday and was expected to fly to Baghdad later in the day for the meetings. P.L.O. officials said in Amman. Mr. Arafat visited Saudi Arabia before arriving in Doha on Sunday for talks with senior Qatari leaders.

The Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat is expected to come to Amman immediately after the Baghdad meetings for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Arafat was expected in Amman two weeks ago but Palestinian officials said the delay in the P.L.O. chairman's visit to Jordan was a result of his previously arranged engagements in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The officials refused to link the delay in Mr. Arafat's visit to Amman with the P.L.O.'s position on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. "Mr. Arafat will soon come to Jordan regardless of the P.L.O. leadership's final decision on 242 and 338," the officials said. They did not say whether the Baghdad meetings were expected to come out with such a final decision.

The P.L.O. leadership decided in last November to delay its decision on 242 and 338 until after learning the results of the Geneva summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. But so far no news on a superpower agreement on the Middle East conflict has emerged and Washington still refuses to deal with the P.L.O. unless the organisation accepts the two key U.N. resolutions. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has called on the P.L.O. to accept the two resolutions before the end of this month or "it risks everything."

There have been no indications that the P.L.O. was moving towards accepting 242 and 338 without reciprocal U.N. guarantees that such an acceptance would ensure a direct P.L.O. participation in a proposed international conference and American and Israeli recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Palestinian sources said in Amman on Sunday that the P.L.O. leadership was probably seeking a compromise formula under which it would not have to accept 242 and 338 without any tangible and guaranteed gains in return. The sources said, however, they did not expect the Baghdad meetings to announce a firm P.L.O. position on the issue but said Mr. Arafat himself will convey it to the King.

One of the major events that added a new dimension to the issue was last week's visit to Moscow by Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the P.L.O.'s Political Department. During the visit, Mr. Kaddoumi held talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and at the conclusion of the visit, both men reaffirmed the need for an international conference on the Mideast. Though no further details were available on the Moscow discussions, Mr. Kaddoumi's Soviet visit itself was seen as an indication of an improvement in relations between the leadership of the P.L.O. and the Kremlin.

The Soviet leadership has expressed reservations over the Feb.

(Continued on page 3)

Gemayel told that he may be forced to accept militia pact

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel goes to Damascus on Monday warned that he faces possible military action unless he backs a Syrian-brokered militia pact to end civil war in Lebanon.

Mr. Gemayel, who has yet to endorse the pact, is expected to tell Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that several of Lebanon's Christian leaders oppose the tripartite agreement.

Shi'ite militia chief Nabih Berri, one of the signatories, said on Saturday that unless the Christian president gave the agreement his support, he would be forced to do so.

The summit, widely seen here as decisive for restoring peace in Lebanon, will be the 11th between Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Assad in two years. Their previous meetings have all been in Syria, while Mr. Assad has visited Lebanon once during the past 10 years.

Addressing Mr. Gemayel through reporters, Mr. Berri said: "As we force you to cancel (the May 1983 accord), we will force you to accept the agreement."

Mr. Berri's Amal militia, allies of Syria, wrested control of west Beirut from troops loyal to Mr. Gemayel in February 1984, compelling the president to revoke the accord which provided for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Syria and Lebanon's leftist militias opposed the accord, saying it infringed on Lebanese sovereignty and threatened Syrian security.

Assem Kanso, another militia leader closely linked with Syria, told the Al-Hakika newspaper that anyone blocking the pact would have to face the consequences.

Mr. Kanso, leader of the Syrian Arab Baath Party in Lebanon, said Syria had "many options" if Mr. Gemayel rejected the pact.

The peace agreement was signed on Dec. 28 by Mr. Berri, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia chief Walid Junblatt and mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia commander Elie Hobeika.

Mr. Gemayel, who took no part in the negotiations, is believed to resent the importance accorded Elie Hobeika as the Christian spokesman during three months of intensive peace talks.

Some Christian politicians oppose the pact because it gives the Muslim majority a greater share of power and reduces the Christian presidency's prerogatives by abolishing the current inter-sect power sharing system.

Argument over the pact has split the Christian leadership, with Beirut media reporting a three-way struggle involving Mr. Hobeika, his hardline chief of staff Samir Geagea and Mr. Gemayel.

The pro-Gemayel Al Amal newspaper said the peace agreement threatened to make Mr. Gemayel's Maronite community

like "Red Indians in the United States."

A committee of delegates from the pact's three militia signatories issued a statement Saturday night, brushing aside what it said were Mr. Gemayel's reservations.

It said the militia agreement envisaged phased political reforms, linked to the ending of hostilities and restoration of law and order.

"The Maronite community's role has not become secondary at all," it said. "Instead, the agreement provides for a climate of collective partnership."

The tripartite committee defended the pact's provisions for enlarging parliament and setting up a senate.

"Those who stand to suffer (through the agreement) or who tamper with the fate of the homeland will not be permitted to escalate the game of death, impoverishment, dismemberment and destruction of a unified, free, recovered Lebanon," it said.

The As-Safir newspaper, reporting in Damascus, said Mr. Gemayel's visit to Syria was of historical importance and compared it to his first summit with Mr. Assad on March 1, 1984, when Mr. Gemayel revoked the accord with Israel.

"In Damascus they see the agreement as a new and important round in the confrontation with Israel and will not allow anyone to make them lose this round, especially for silly reasons..." it said.

Khamenei's visit to Pakistan seen as significant

ISLAMABAD (R) — Iran's President Ali Khamenei arrives here on Monday for a three-day visit that will signal a warm-up in once cool relations between the two neighbouring Islamic nations.

The visit is the first to Pakistan by an Iranian president since Tehran's 1979 Islamic revolution, after which relations between the two former close allies became cool.

Mr. Khamenei and Pakistan President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq will discuss bilateral ties, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Gulf war, the Palestinian problem and the role of superpower in world affairs, Pakistani officials said. Both nations are members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Pakistan is a member of an Islamic peace committee which has been trying to mediate between Iran and Iraq since early 1981.

"The visit will undoubtedly serve to further consolidate friendship and mutual understanding," one official said.

He said talks would also be held on the regional grouping which Iran, Pakistan and Turkey decided to revive under the new name of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), aimed at coordinating trade and economic development.

Pakistan's close ties with the United States kept Tehran's revolutionary rulers from befriending Islamabad although they both strongly opposed the Soviet military presence in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Iran also resented complaints by Pakistani Shi'ites of denial of their religious rights by a Sunni government in Islamabad.

Islamabad has set up a committee to study the Shi'ite complaints and last month Gen. Zia named a Shi'ite former army chief Mohammad Musa Khan, as governor of the southwestern province of Baluchistan which borders with Iran.

Trade between Iran and Pakistan grew gradually after the Islamic revolution and was worth \$531.2 million in the financial year 1983/84 (July/June). But it declined to \$150 million in 1984/85.

Last September, the two countries signed an agreement to boost their trade to the level of \$400 million in a year.

Arab-American leader to defy Reagan ban on travel

NEW YORK (AP) — The president of the American-Arab Relations Committee said on Saturday that he would defy U.S. President Ronald Reagan's ban on travel to Libya in order to meet with Colonel Muammar Qadhafi.

M.T. Mehdi, who heads the New York-based group, said he is convinced that Mr. Reagan's executive orders containing sanctions against Libya are unconstitutional. He said he would leave Thursday for Libya.

In a speech last Tuesday, Mr. Reagan declared Libya a "threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

He issued an order severing economic ties with Libya and ordering American citizens there to leave by Feb. 1.

The Reagan administration issued an executive order in 1981 making it illegal to travel to Libya under an American passport.

Mr. Mehdi, referring to both the

U.S. denies Libya downed missing jet

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has admitted that one of its jets was missing, but denied reports of a Libyan anti-aircraft gun shot down an American aircraft over the Mediterranean earlier this week.

An F-18 aircraft from the USS Coral Sea disappeared on Wednesday during a routine training mission, a Defence Department spokesman said Saturday night.

He called a Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) report that Libyan anti-aircraft missiles shot down a U.S. plane "totally without foundation. No U.S. aircraft have been lost to hostile action."

A navy spokesman said the missing plane was believed to have crashed at sea south of Nice, France. An investigation into the incident was continuing, he said.

U.S. navy spokesman Bill Sonntag said the plane was on a training mission off Nice when it vanished Wednesday.

Asked about the KUNA report, Sonntag said, "the status of the plane is missing and believed lost."

"The Department of Defence is denying the allegations that the F-18 was shot down as being without foundation. We have not lost any aircraft to hostile action," he said.

Sonntag said he did not know where the Coral Sea was located when the twin-engine plane took off.

There was no immediate official or press response in Libya to the KUNA report.

KUNA quoted a diplomat as its source for the report.

It did not identify the diplomat, saying only he was based in Beirut. The news agency reported he said

the warplane was downed Wednesday by a Soviet-made SAM missile as it flew over the Gulf of Sidra.

The Coral Sea had departed from Naples, Italy, on Jan. 3 with about eight other vessels from the Sixth Fleet, and Libyan lead Muammar Qadhafi charged the America was massing warships of Libya for an attack.

Washington denied that assertion and said the task force was on a routine exercise in the western Mediterranean and far off Libya.

White House spokesman Pete Roussett told reporters in Washington he had nothing to add to the Defence Department comments.

"We have no information to confirm that an American aircraft was shot down by Libya," Roussett said.

Officials at the El Toro marine base near San Diego, California, reported the missing pilot was Maj. John Nicholas Summerlin, 38, and a native of Fort Pierce, Florida. They said a search for the plane and pilot was called off Friday.

Maj. Summerlin's sister, Sharon Langel, was quoted as saying Saturday that the family was told the day before that the pilot was presumed dead.

"They turned around because of a storm was the story they were giving us," Mrs. Langel was quoted as saying by the Post newspaper of West Palm Beach, Florida.

"It (Libyan involvement) makes a little more sense than him going down on his own... he was a very good pilot, one of the best we've always heard. So him going down in a storm didn't make sense."

Egyptian minister vows to restore order

CAIRO (R) — Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi has accused Muslim fundamentalists, communists and Nasserites of using the death of a policeman who killed seven Israelis to incite trouble, and vowed to restore order.

Mr. Rushdi said 47 people had been arrested in disturbances sparked by the death in custody last week of police conscript Sulaiman Khater, and said a five-day police siege of Khater's village would continue until calm was restored.

He told parliamentarians of the ruling National Democratic Party Sunday night that an autopsy on Khater, 25, showed he had died from asphyxia caused by hanging, and not strangulation.

Khater's family and opposition politicians have accused the government of killing him. He was found dead in his cell in a military hospital last Tuesday, 10 days after a military court jailed him for life with hard labour for killing seven Israelis.

Mubarak, Spanish defence chief discuss ties, Mideast

CAIRO (Agencies) — Spanish Defence Minister Narcis Serra discussed increasing bilateral political and military cooperation as well as the Middle East situation during a one-hour meeting with President Hosni Mubarak here on Sunday.

"Our (bilateral) cooperation is very good, and we can increase our cooperation to give it more of a political content by exchanging periodically points of view between ministers," Mr. Serra told reporters afterwards.

He said he and Mr. Mubarak had also discussed how to increase "co-production in the industry of equipment for armed forces," but gave no details.

Spain has supplied Egypt with hundreds of millions of dollars worth of arms and military equipment, including MX30 light tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks.

In advance of Mr. Serra's visit, Spain's independent news agency Europa Press reported that the Defence Ministry did not expect the Cairo talks to produce major new arms contracts.

Europa Press said Egypt has not yet paid for its purchases and Mr. Serra was expected to raise this in talks with his Egyptian counterpart Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala.

On Spain's plan to establish diplomatic ties with Israel, which has been pending since December 1982, Mr. Serra denied that the European Community — which Spain joined on Jan. 1, was pressuring it into forming relations with the Jewish state.

He declined to make further comments on the subject.

Spain has, on several occasions this year, reaffirmed its decision to go ahead with plans to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. The reiterated came in the wake of Arab and Islamic calls against the move.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibbi said last week that he planned to visit Spain in March to discuss the issue with Spanish government leaders.

Reuters quoted informed sources as saying that Egypt and Spain plan to jointly produce warships and military trucks, and are considering building a new tank.

N. Yemen expects Israeli raid

ABU DHABI (R) — North Yemen, host to several Palestinian military bases, is expecting an Israeli raid in retaliation for last month's attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, its deputy premier was quoted on Sunday as saying.

"We received information about a possible Israeli attack, and we are ready to counter any aggression," Abdul Karim Al Iryani, who is also foreign minister, told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad in an interview.

Israel has vowed to "avenge" the airport attacks.

Iran calls for withdrawal of Muslim, Arab funds from U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran termed the United States freezing of Libyan assets "robbery" and called on Islamic and Arab states to withdraw their deposits from U.S. banks, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA, reported Sunday.

The agency, which is monitored here, said the call for retaliatory action was made in a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry in Tehran Saturday night.

The statement strongly condemned the decision of the U.S. government to impose sanctions on Libya and to freeze Libyan assets in the United States and "called on Muslim and Third World states to retaliate to the robbery of the assets of Muslim states and the American terrorist acts," IRNA reported.

IRNA added that the foreign ministry statement also "urged Arab and Muslim states, as well as all countries opposing the domination of the superpowers, to withdraw their deposits from U.S. banks."

"By doing so these countries will show the United States that they are ready to confront the boundless U.S. support for the Zionist regime, as well as the U.S. threatening of Islamic and Third World countries," the statement added, IRNA reported.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Keane called on Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu on Saturday to tell him the U.S. government had given its final approval to the sale, a government spokesman said.

The United States has delayed agreement on the sale, seeking guarantees against technology leaks.

Italy is running high risk, Craxi tells parliament

ROME (Agencies) — Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has warned that because of unresolved conflicts in the Mediterranean region Italy runs a high risk of more attacks like the airport gun battle in which 16 people died last month.

Mr. Craxi said in a half-yearly report to parliament on the activities of the civilian and military intelligence services that both groups had unmasked more than 70 foreign spies in the past six months, an above-average haul interpreted as a sign of Italy's vulnerability to external ferment.

Mr. Craxi listed the Palestinian problem and Lebanon as two of the "high risk factors" that threatened Italy with further guerrilla violence.

He warned of the "permanent danger posed by certain Middle East groups whose terrorist initiatives can be seen in the wider context of international subversion."

Mr. Craxi's report to parliament, a confidential document which was quoted widely and consistently in Italian newspapers, said divisions within the Palestinian movement and between moderate and hardline Arab governments could also foster guer-

rilla attacks involving Italy. Italian counter-intelligence identified more than 70 foreign spies in the six months to last Oct. 22, according to the report. It gave no comparative figure, and did not name the nationalities of the spies.

But state radio RAI said the figure was higher than for any other six-month period and Mr. Craxi had deliberately included it out of concern at the increasing use of Italy as a target for violence that had its roots elsewhere.

One theory, the report said, was that a criminal "freelance agency" operating from Rome could supply Italian urban guerrillas or groups of foreigners with arms they needed for attacks like the Fiumicino airport raid on Dec. 27.

Government officials meanwhile released the text of a letter by Mr. Craxi to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Friday in which he stressed the government's "intransigent firmness in fighting international terrorism."

But the Italian leader also spoke of his fundamental conviction that this fight would be vain "if efforts are not also made to overcome the root causes that favour the development of terrorism."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 731111

MAIN CHANNEL

16:03	Korn
16:20	Carnotons
16:45	Mickey Mouse
17:05	Religious programme
18:00	The Road to Jeru-salem
18:35	Kuwait Series
19:15	Local programme on development

20:00	News in Arabic
20:40	Arabic series
21:00	Local Cinema
22:00	Tomorrow's programme
22:30	The Road to Jeru-salem
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	The Road to Jeru-salem contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

06:00	French Programme: Pluk nau-frage de lespace
19:05	News in French
19:25	Magnitude Sport
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
20:40	Battle Boys
21:05	Jordanian series
21:10	Tender is the Night Legs
22:10	News in English
22:10	Dallas

RADIO

85.5 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz. NW
Tel. 731111-114

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
07:45	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Pop Session
10:30	News Summary
12:05	Pop Session Contd.
13:00	News Summary
13:45	Pop Session Contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumental
14:15	Over a Cup of Tea
14:30	Concert Hour
15:00	News Summary
15:05	Instrumental
16:00	Old Favourites
17:00	The 15th Century A.D.
18:00	Pop Session
18:30	News Summary
18:05	Sports Round-up
18:15	Special Feature
19:00	Newsweek
19:30	Dance with 7
20:00	Evening Show

21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Contd.
21:55	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show Contd.
22:50	News Summary
23:05	Evening Show Contd.
23:40	Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00	News
06:45	Natural Selection
07:00	World News
07:15	World News
07:30	Letterbox
07:45	Recording of the Week
08:00	News
08:30	Questions of Faith
09:00	World News
09:05	World News
09:30	Sarah and Company
10:00	World News
10:05	Reflections
10:15	Foreign Affairs
10:30	Anything Goes
11:00	World News
11:05	World News
11:15	Good Books
11:30	Football's Choice
11:45	Look Ahead
11:55	Football's Choice
12:00	News Summary
12:05	News Summary
12:30	World News
12:35	World News
13:00	World News
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24:05	World News

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7300, 4565, 11740,
11425 and 15210 KHz

06:00	News
06:10	Newsline
06:30	VOA Morning
07:00	VOA Morning
07:30	VOA Morning
08:00	VOA Morning
08:30	VOA Morning
09:00	VOA Morning
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23:30	VOA Morning
24:00	VOA Morning

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	VIDEO	FEATURE FILM	CULTURAL CENTRES	SERVICE CLUBS	CHURCHES	PRAYER TIMES
An exhibition of old times newspapers, "La Presse Napoleonnique" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 16).	Permanent book exhibition and plastic arts gallery at Dar Al Jaleed Publishing House, Jabel Al Hussein, opposite to the British Bank of the Middle East.	Video sport "Face a la mer" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267 American Centre - Tel. 644371 British Council - Tel. 6314778 French Cultural Centre - Tel. 637009 Goethe Institute - Tel. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre - Tel. 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre - Tel. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre - Tel. 639777 Haya Arts Centre - Tel. 6671816 Hassan Youth City - Tel. 641793 Y.W.C.A. - Tel. 664251 Amman Municipal Library - Tel. 637111 University of Jordan Library - Tel. 843555	Llano Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Llano Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410.	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) - Tel. 624590 Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) - Jabel Al Hussein, 637440 De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) - Jabel Al Hussein, 637440 Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) - Jabel Al Hussein, 637440 Anglican Church (Church of the Red Cross) - Jabel Al Hussein, 637440 American Orthodox Church - Jabel Al Hussein, 637440 St. George's Church (Syrian Orthodox) - Jabel Al Hussein, 637440 Apostolic Church - Jabel Al Hussein, 637440	05:14 (Fajr) 06:37 (Sunrise) Dhaka 11:04 Dhaka 14:23 Asr 16:25 Maghreb 18:15 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC	WEATHER	ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES	MONEY EXCHANGE
This information is supplied by Airline Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: — Titan — Kiri Jade — Bala Eagle — Baghdad — Sea Swallow Amin Kowar and Sons Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service.	Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. The sky will be partly cloudy with scattered rain especially in the eastern part of the country. In the Gulf of Aqaba the winds will be westerly moderate and calm seas. Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 18, Deserts 14, Jordan Valley 17. Humidity readings: Amman 95 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.	09:35 Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 Cairo (RJ) 09:45 Muscat, Dubai (RJ) 09:45 Aqaba (RJ) 10:00 Damascus (RJ) 10:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ) 10:35 Doha (RJ) 11:00 Kuwait (RJ) 11:00 Jeddah, Medina (KU) 11:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 11:15 Beirut (ME) 11:35 Cairo (MS) 11:35 Baghdad (RJ) 11:35 Bangkok (RJ) 09:25 Baghdad (RJ)	06:45 Damascus, Athens (OA) 06:45 Frankfurt (LH) 07:30 Athens, Aqaba (RJ) 11:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ) 12:00 Athens, Paris (RJ) 12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ) 13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF) 13:30 Cairo (RJ) 14:25 Istanbul (TK) 15:00 Kuwait (KU) 16:00 Medina, Jeddah (SV) 19:00 Cairo (MS) 19:05 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:00 Damascus (RJ) 20:10 Baghdad (RJ) 20:15 Jeddah (RJ) 20:30 Baghdad (JA) 20:45 Cairo (RJ) 21:15 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ) 21:15 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)	Sunday rates Local currency rates in fit: Bahraini dinar 970 980 Dutch guilder 132 133.1 Egyptian pound 210 215 French franc 48 48.8 Iraqi dinar 332 338 Japanese yen (for 100) 181.3 182.8 Kuwaiti dinar 1270 1278 Lebanese lira 19 21 Omani rial 1000 1007 Qatari riyal 100 102 Saudi riyal 100 102 Swedish krona 48.5 48.9 Swiss franc 175.1 176.5 Syrian Lira 25 27 UAE dirham 99 101 U.K. sterling pound 531.4 535.7 U.S. dollar 366.8 369.9 W. German mark 148.7 149.9

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	NIGHT DUTY	HOSPITALS	GENERAL
Amman governorate 891228 Amman civil defence 199 Civil Defence Unit 271293, 271331 Civil Defence Quseimeh 770733 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630341 Blood bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661114 Fire headquarters 622090-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963901 Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771258 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 533060	AMMAN: Dr. Othman Musalla 774034 Dr. Ahmad Al Dahan 776719 Firas pharmacy 661912 Al Sahm pharmacy 636730 Tagheri pharmacy 675478 Bader pharmacy 670211 Mughalil pharmacy 662894 Ziyad pharmacy 639141 Ehab pharmacy 898022 Jabal Al Taj pharmacy 771050 TAXIS: Jerusalem taxi 639655 Khalid taxi 623715 Oroub taxi 846838 Kurd taxi 666955 Seyaba taxi 643265 Firas taxi 841085 IRRID: Dr. Al Omani 274974 Jerusalem pharmacy 243442 Juran pharmacy 772517	Hassan Medical Centre 81381332 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816 Akil Maternity, J. Amman 6424412 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Palestine, Shmeitan 6641714 Shmeitan Hospital 669151 University Hospital 84584565 Al-Muhsen Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Amman 66612737 Al-Ah, Amman 6641686 Itzkan, Al-Muhajir 7771012 Al-Bakir, J. Amman 77511126 Amy, Marja 89161115 Queen Alia Hospital 60224050	Jordan Television 77311119 Radio Jordan 77411119 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666112 Price complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 10 Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in fit per kg.	Cocunut (each)
Apple 230/230	550/450
Beet 130/130	550/550
Carrot (yellow) 150/120	480/480
Chestnut 650/600	180/140
	300/250

Regent receives credentials of five new ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received on Sunday the credentials of five newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan.

The five new envoys included Mr. Samir Balan of Turkey, Mr. Terry Goggins of Australia, Mr. Gurucharan Singh of India, Mr. Khamis Ibn Hamid Ibn Seif Al Bishri of Oman, and Mr. Horacio Pinedo of Argentina.

Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid and Acting Foreign Minister Hazim Nuseibeh attended the presentation ceremony at the Royal Court.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, is shown here receiving the credentials of five new ambassadors to Jordan. From left to right, the five are Mr. Samir Balan of Turkey, Mr. Terry Goggins of Australia, Mr. Gurucharan Singh of India, Mr. Khamis Ibn Hamid Ibn Seif Al Bishri of Oman, and Mr. Horacio Pinedo of Argentina (Petra photo)

Exemptions from LSD fees announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Three institutions and charitable societies which carry out housing projects in Jordan and the residents of these projects have been exempted from paying registration fees to the Land and Survey Department (LSD) upon the transfer of ownership, according to new regulations issued Saturday by LSD Director Badri Al Mulaqi.

Youth minister leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Hisham Al Shazari leaves for Baghdad Monday to take part in a meeting by the Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports Council due to open in the Iraqi capital on Tuesday.

The minister will submit during the four-day meeting proposals on a fund for supporting and financing Arab sports installations.

Tourism authorities seek to encourage domestic tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — The Tourism Authority has prepared all the necessary studies and designs for setting up a tourist village in Wadi Rum which would be a centre for desert tourism, mountaineering and gliders.

Tourism Authority Director General Nasri Attallah and the director general of the Tourist Investments Department Zuhair Al Ajlouni recently made an inspection tour of Petra, Wadi Rum and Aqaba, where they met with provincial governors and representatives of tourist organisations. During these meetings they discussed ways of improving and diversifying tourist services and the projects which the authority is intending to execute in Wadi Petra and Wadi Rum in order to give tourists the opportunity for longer visits and encourage Jordanian citizens' visit these areas.

JOSYICO board to review operations and investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Jordan Syrian Industry Company (JOSYICO) will hold a meeting in Damascus on Tuesday to discuss the company's general budget and review a report on the company's operations in 1984.

During the two-day session, the board members will hold a general review of the performance of the company and also endorse a budget for investments in 1986, JOSYICO spokesman said here Saturday.

WAJ's new plant takes nesting out of sewage

By Monika Warick
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The rapid development in Jordan during the last decades has led not only to a better standard of living but also to increasing amounts of waste and sewage to be disposed of safely. Until recently, most of Amman's sewage went to Ain Ghazal Treatment Plant, which has a capacity of 15,000 cubic metres (m³) per day. However, lately it received up to 30,000 m³ daily, resulting in only partial treatment of much of the water leaving the plant.

This intolerable situation led to the planning and construction of a new sewage treatment plant at Khirbet As Samra, about 40 km northeast of Amman, under authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammed Keilani told the Jordan Times.

Once it is operating at full capacity, the new plant will be able to treat up to 148,000 cubic metres per day, the equivalent of the waste water of 60 per cent of Jordan's population. Since June 1985, about 53,000 cubic metres are treated daily at the new plant.

The waste stabilisation ponds built at Khirbet As Samra are unique in Jordan and only a very few exist in the region, said Mr. Keilani. The main principle of the treatment is the closest possible imitation of the waste decomposition processes going on in natural bodies of water, explained Dr. Waj's Director of Treatment Plants, Department Sager Al Salem. This decomposition is basically the breaking up of organic matter contained in the water by the action of bacteria and small organisms with or without the presence of oxygen.

The great advantage of this treatment is that it needs almost no additional energy input, as the water flows through the plant by force of gravity and the actual treatment is powered by sunlight and wind.

The decision to build the Khirbet As Samra plant was mainly taken on the grounds of the considerable financial advantage of this solution over the original plans to extend the old Ain Ghazal plant and to build three new ones at various locations. The estimated cost for these projects, according to the WAJ, would have been JD 21 million, plus high maintenance and operation costs. Reduced to cost per cubic metre, these were 85 fils against only 21.4 fils for the waste stabilisation ponds.

The design of Khirbet As Samra effects its particular action: It consists of many very large ponds and the water surface alone is 18 hectares.

An important point is that the type of treatment plant is extremely well adapted to dry and

climatic. The best conditions for the biological processes in the ponds are a mean summer temperature of at or above 30°C and high solar radiation, as well as strong winds, all present in most parts of the Kingdom. The capacity of waste stabilisation ponds is also much higher than that of the tanks of a common treatment plant. However, as Dr. Salem pointed out, it needs a large gently sloping area to be built on, so it is not suitable for all locations in Jordan. This is also the reason for the plant's location far from Amman: land near the city would have been too expensive, Dr. Sa'ad added.

The new plant was constructed by a contracting firm from Italy and financed by the government through a World Bank credit of a total cost of JD 17 million.

Plant design

A 40 km pipeline transports the sewage from Ain Ghazal where it is collected from the city's sewer system, the water travels exactly 22 hours. Coarse material is currently removed manually at Ain Ghazal, but this will be discontinued as soon as Khirbet As Samra is working at full capacity, probably sometime this year.

A closer look at the plant's design shows that each of the ponds, different biological processes are taking place. The ponds are arranged in lines of 12 each, a so-called 'trains' of which there are three to a total of 36 ponds. Each train constitutes a separate treatment unit, so that the plant can be extended by adding more trains to it. Engineer Jamal Al Fakih of the WAJ explained that in the first two ponds of the train, which are between 5 metres deep, the waste water is broken down by anaerobic bacteria — basically a fermentation process — and some of the material settles to the bottom of the ponds.

About eight days in the anaerobic ponds, the water flows through a series of 2.5 and 1.5 metres deep. Here, a combination of aerobic and anaerobic decomposition is employed. The aerobic processes, during which the bacteria use oxygen to digest the waste, are gradually getting the better of it as the water is becoming cleaner. Anaerobic decomposition takes place in the lower layers of the water (as it does in any natural body of water) while the aerobic breakdown occurs in the upper layers, where the penetrating sunlight induces the growth of photosynthetic bacteria. These are able to grow very rapidly and are excellent indicators of the water's quality.

Following the facultative ponds are 'maturation ponds', with a depth of about 1.2 metres, in which the water remains for about two weeks. Here, the exclusively aerobic conditions permit abundant growth of photosynthetic plants producing additional oxygen which is then available for the complete oxygenation of any waste components still left.

The last stage is the chlorination of the fully treated water before it flows down the wadi into the Zaqra River, which it joins near Sukkha.

Monitoring the treatment process

Khirbet As Samra is the first sewage treatment plant of its type operating in Jordan and the natural processes by which it works are extremely vulnerable, so that careful monitoring of the project is an absolute necessity, said Dr. Salem. The WAJ has recently signed an agreement with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), under which the RSS in January 1986 is beginning a three-year integrated study on the quality of the treatment process and possible utilisation of the effluents for irrigation. Additionally, regular tests are carried out by the WAJ's laboratory on important indicators.

Dr. Ruad Hashwa of the University of Jordan, who for some time has worked with the RSS research team in his capacity as a microbiologist, said that the effluent of this type of treatment plant is meant to flow into a large river, where it will be diluted considerably. It is not of safe drinking water quality, but it should be safe for the irrigation of flowers, trees, and crops which are not consumed raw. The irrigation techniques should be chosen accordingly — furrow or drip irrigation rather than the use of sprinklers is recommended.

Precautions have to be taken

against pathogenic bacteria and viruses, with which, although they should not have survived the treatment and the additional chlorination, the WAJ is not going to take chances and will only allow the irrigation of flowers and trees with the plant's effluent for the time being.

Training course on weed control opens in Deir Alla

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — A three-week training course on combating harmful weeds opened at the University of Jordan's farm at Deir Alla in the central Jordan Valley Sunday. Oregon State University and the Ministry of Agriculture organised the course in cooperation with the University of Jordan to orient agricultural extension service staff from different governorates on modern ways to fight weeds which detrimentally affect agricultural production.

Harmful weeds are responsible for the loss of nearly 10 to 30 per cent of Jordan's total agricultural production every year and also for the poor quality of crops in general, according to Ministry of Agriculture Assistant Under Secretary Muwaffaq Al Saudi, who opened the course, deputising for Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakqan.

He said that the participants will be oriented on the types of weeds that are harmful to crops and means of combating them.

Tourist guide seminar opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course for tourist guides began at the Hotel Training College in Amman Sunday. A total of 35 trainees are taking part in the three-week course, during which they will hear lectures on local government in Jordan, laws and regulations pertaining to tourism, health, commerce and industry; traditional handicrafts, the duties and responsibilities of a tourist guide, and Jordan's historical and geographical importance.

The participants will also be taken on field trips to archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Khalaf Al Khazoum, from Yarmouk University, which is organising the course in cooperation with the Jordan Tourism Authority (JTA). He said that the course is designed to impart information to the trainees in Jordan's past and modern history which is required to relay to the foreign tourists visiting Jordan.

Mr. Jamil Jaber from the JTA stressed in an opening speech the importance of tourism for Jordan's economy and the duty of guides to encourage the arrival of tourist groups to Jordan. The role of a guide is to convey Jordan's cultural and political messages to the rest of the world, Mr. Jaber said.

The opening session was attended by officials from JTA and Yarmouk University.

Future improvements

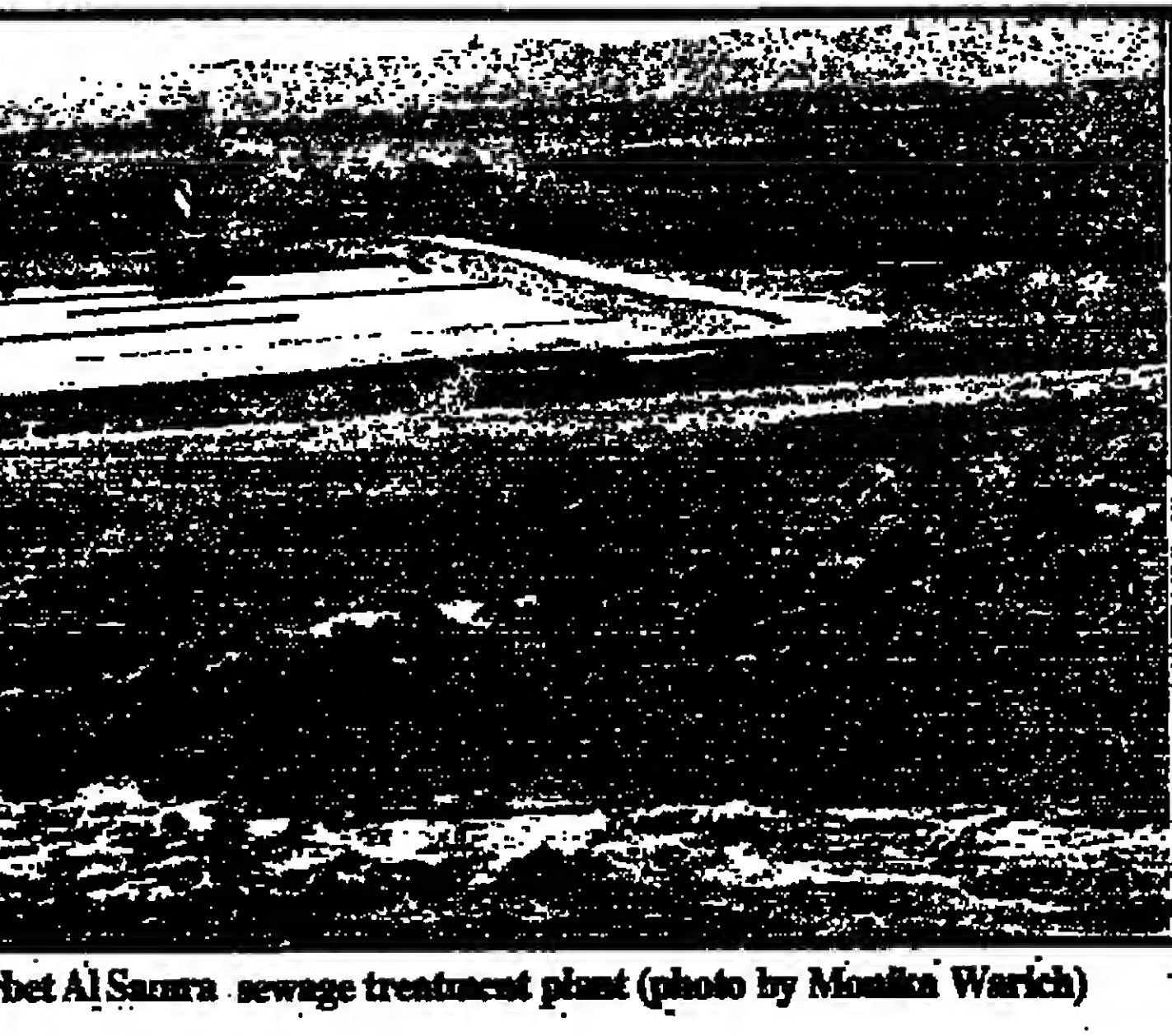
The greater part of the water from Khirbet As Samra is flowing into the Zaqra River, then to the King Talal Reservoir and further into the Jordan Valley, where it is used for irrigation in agriculture. Mr. Keilani said that the WAJ plans to allow restricted irrigation (forage crops, trees) in the Zaqra Valley above the reservoir. Presently, 50,000 olive tree saplings are being planted on the grounds of the plant, which are irrigated with effluent.

The WAJ is planning to complete sewer systems for all Jordanian cities within the next five years, or by 1990. By the end of the next seven years, this will be the case for every settlement with a population of more than 3000, and by then, each city will have its own sewage treatment plant.

There are also plans to supply the towns of Ramtha, Mafraq, Madaba and Ma'an with stabilisation ponds; in Aqaba they are already under construction, Mr. Keilani added.

To support these projects, the WAJ is at the moment carrying out a series of experiments and studies to establish scientific criteria for wastewater treatment plant design, considering waste water concentration and climatic, topographic and social conditions in Jordan. These will help to draw up local design criteria instead of those presently in use which depend on the industrial countries' experience. By providing design criteria in accordance with the environmental and topographic conditions, the construction and operation of more economical and efficient treatment plants will be possible, said Dr. Salem.

Since the ponds have only recently been filled, there is some leakage of the waste water into the ground, which is feared to reach the groundwater eventually. It is expected that with time the mat-



A chlorination pond at the WAJ's Khirbet Al Samra sewage treatment plant (photo by Monika Warick)

Seminar members echo Regent's call for unified Arab technology policy

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A two-day seminar on advanced technology concluded Sunday with a call on Arab governments to adopt a pan-Arab unified strategy at the level of decision makers for the acquisition of advanced technology in the service of regional development.

A number of research and working papers were presented by a number of eminent think tank researchers in the Arab World during the seminar, which was patronised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Participants urged Arab governments to support the acquisition of advanced technology, as it represents the basic element for nations to survive the forthcoming century.

They also highlighted the linkage between advanced technology and scientific research which, they said, should be included in all fields of development.

A stress on the promotion of individual capabilities and creative manpower rather than financial funding and raw materials, was echoed throughout the seminar, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

In a working paper presented by researcher Dr. Adel Thabet, the necessity of the acquisition of technology and scientific capabilities instead of importing technology in the form of commodities was emphasised.

In working to achieve this target, there should be efforts to promote individual capabilities in research, application, innovation, scientific development and technology within the framework of the society as a whole. Dr. Thabet told Arab eminent researchers during his presentation.

Dr. Thabet urged the utilisation of advanced technology in the fields of software, biotechnology and genetic engineering, energy,

space, seas and new substances. With regard to software utilisation and informatics, one researcher noted that the Arab World has been successfully dealing with the introduction of facilities in these areas.

Dr. Adnan Shahab Aldeen, president of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, said that informatics are being utilised in Arab airlines and that they have set a record in applying software and hardware dating back to three decades.

However, Dr. Shahab urged a proper linkage between research centres and the production field in the search for the acquisition of advanced technology. Linkage between these two parts of the equation is currently missing, said Dr. Shahab.

He also called for the enhancement of managerial capabilities of research centres in order to arrive at the best results in the acquisition of advanced technology since the management of scientific institutes lacks efficiency.

Moreover, decision making in regard to application of scientific knowledge is largely left to economists, who through the past years have proven unreliable in their assessments of long-term development programmes, said Dr. Shahab.

Another aspect which made the Arab World lag behind the global progress in advanced technology as stated by the researcher was the insufficiency of funds earmarked for scientific research, as it is only in the region of half per cent of the Arab World Gross National Product (GNP). Dr. Shahab urged Arab governments to increase allocations for scientific research to at least the minimum global standard in order to keep abreast of up-to-the minute additions in advanced technology and to adopt pan-Arab infrastructure in the same field.

According to Dr. Shahab, a certain perspective should be coupled with long-term development programmes in order to boost the acquisition of technology. Such programmes, he continued, should set for themselves defined targets to reach, regardless of the expenses that might be incurred. In other words, Arab governments should take the risk of entering research fields and large industries, namely the government-owned ones, should also contribute to the process by raising more funds for research.

"We usually ask for the best results, and if we failed we never gave ourselves a second chance," although defined targets could be secured regardless of temporary setbacks, Dr. Shahab said.

Following Dr. Shahab's presentation, moderator Isam Aldeen Jala' supported his remarks and called for bringing about a pan-Arab integration in industry, and warned against duplication of projects amongst Arab states.

Commenting on Dr. Jala' statement, Royal Scientific Society President Fakhrudeen Daghestani stressed on pan-Arab cooperation especially in producing and marketing of advanced technology.

Dr. Daghestani, citing Jordan's request for advanced shoulder-launched Stinger anti-aircraft missiles from the U.S., which the latter refused to grant the Kingdom, said Egypt produces anti-aircraft missiles similar to Stinger and with the financial and moral contribution of Arab countries, Egypt's production is bound to be on equal terms with that of the U.S.

Private sector opposition to protectionism is voiced during meeting with trade minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce has voiced the private sector's opposition to the policy of protectionism in principle and demanded that the government should maintain a customs tariff policy instead to help provide incentives for competition and the production of better quality goods, Jordan Television reported on Sunday.

JTV said the chamber's view was presented by Chamber of Commerce President Hamdi Al Tabbaa at a meeting held Sunday with Minister of Industry and

Trade Rajai Al Muasher in the presence of representatives of the commercial sector in Jordan.

JTV quoted Mr. Tabbaa as saying the policy of protectionism has a negative impact on the national economy in general and on the industrial sector in particular. Protectionism tends to rule out any competition among industries, thus removing an important incentive for an improvement in the quality of goods and lower prices for the consumer, Mr. Tabbaa was quoted as saying.

In reply, the minister said that

the government measures were designed both to provide protection to the local industry and to revive the economy.

At the meeting both sides exchanged views about the application of the new government instructions concerning protectionism. They also discussed the recent increase in customs duty on a number of imported foreign products, a few on middlemen and commissioners of trade, and the announcement of sales on products at the end of each season as well as the organisation of trade exhibitions.

'Recognition of Palestinian rights key to peace'

(Continued from page 1)

turn the occupied territories into a consumer's market with 1.5 million consumers who provide cheap labour for Israeli industries.

He said observers of the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, can see an increasing Zionist settlement density and major demographic and geographic changes. This policy, he said, led to the Israeli control of a large percentage of territories amounting to more than half of the West Bank area. This also led to a dangerous drain of natural resources, particularly water resources which is the most important natural resource for the population in the occupied territories, he said.

Prince Hassan referred to statistics indicating that Israeli settlements in the West Bank consume 20 million cubic metres of water a year and the figure is expected to reach 52 million cubic metres by the time these settlements are through with its production plans. "This is a serious threat to the agricultural wealth in the Arab territories," he told the seminar.

Prince Hassan said that Israel receives most of its material support necessary for settlement expansion and economic projects from the United States, "particularly from what is called emergency aid." He pointed out that the total aid received by Israel from the United States since 1973 reached \$31 billion until mid-1985.

"We can see that American-Israeli relations in the last few years have reached an unprecedented level in the history of these relations," Prince Hassan said in his opening speech of the three-day seminar, the first of its kind to be organised in the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan said that the recent strategic cooperation agreement and the free trade zone agreement between Israel and the

United States will lead to "an organic link in political, economic and military fields."

Reviewing developments during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Prince Hassan said that King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, despite his awareness of the overwhelming strength of his enemy, did not hesitate one moment to enter the war with his Palestinian brethren. "He was capable, thanks to his courageous forces and his wisdom and foresight to protect a precious part of Palestine — the West Bank of Jordan, from Zionist occupation," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said that as a last attempt in May 1948 to save the region from the tragedies of war, King Abdullah called for the establishment of an Arab kingdom of Jordan and Palestine in which Jewish people would exercise self-government. "But the call for war dominated the thinking of others and it is ironic that the situation has changed today, and the talk is about self-government not for Jewish people but Palestinian Arabs," Prince Hassan said.

Yarmouk University President Dr. Adnan Badran delivered a brief speech at the beginning of the session in which he stressed the importance of studying the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects. He emphasised the need to understand U.S.-Israeli relations which he described as "unprecedented." "Decisions made by Congress and the White House have never been affected by any country as much as they are affected by Israel," Dr. Badran said.

A basic necessity for all Arabs is "to change American public opinion in order that the U.S. recognises that Arabs are our friends" and that "we (the Americans), should stand for justice of the Palestinians," he said.

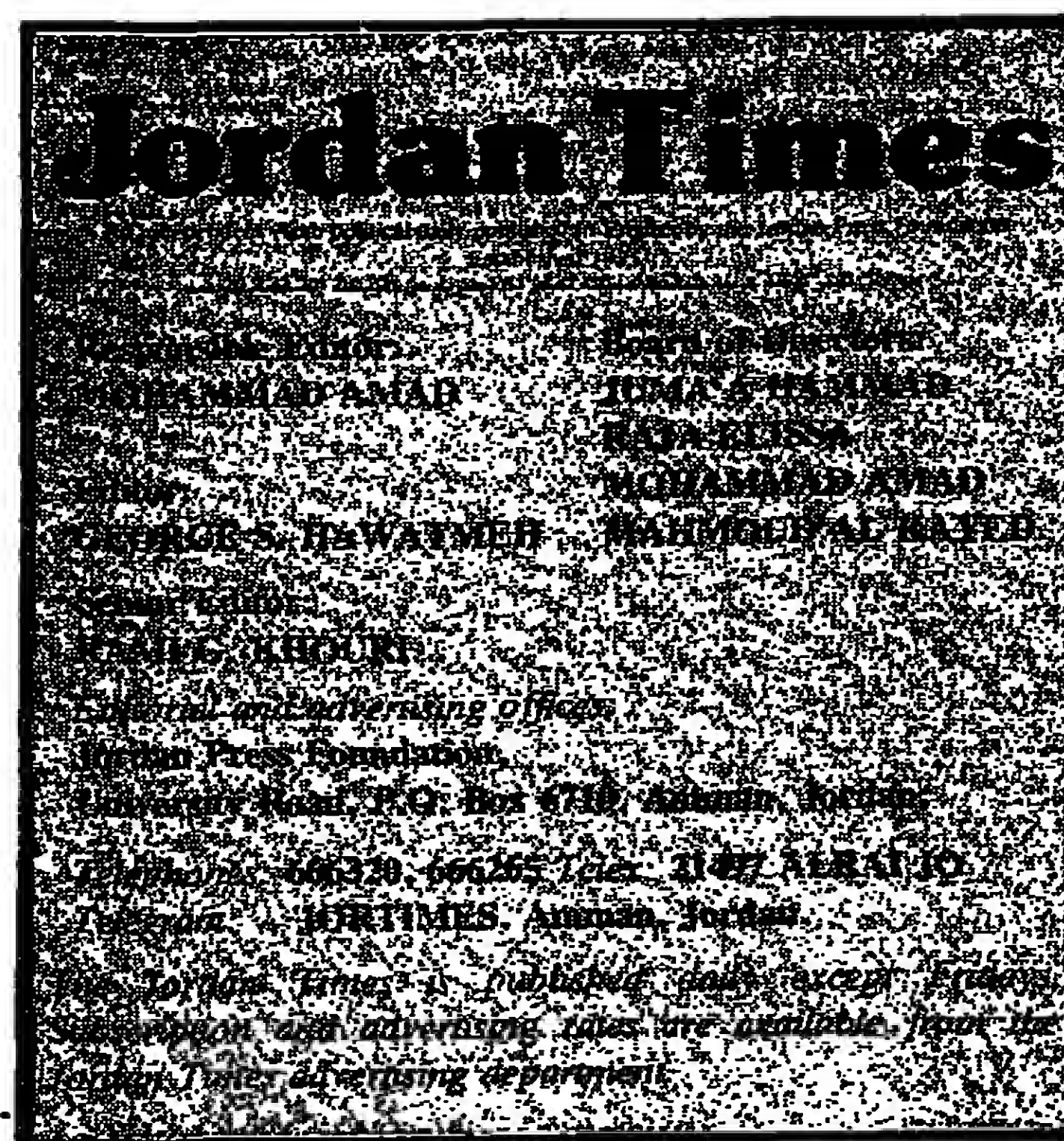
used to disclose the results of his talks with Soviet leader but said efforts were under way to reunify the Palestinian ranks. "The rift in the Palestinian movement is over and efforts are under way to find common denominators among the various Palestinian factions," he told Al Qabas.

11 accord and has urged the PLO leadership to work towards ending all inter-PLO differences and adopt a united Palestinian stand.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas after his Moscow visit, Mr. Kaddoumi refused to disclose the results of his talks with Soviet leader but said efforts were under way to reunify the Palestinian ranks. "The rift in the Palestinian movement is over and efforts are under way to find common denominators among the various Palestinian factions," he told Al Qabas.

PLO leaders meet in Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)



A welcome step

THE GOVERNMENT last week announced plans for establishing a special committee for combating narcotics and drug addiction in Jordan. The announcement said that the new panel will be entrusted with a mission that aims at stemming the spread of drug addiction and protecting society from the danger of drugs. The announcement came close on the heels of an announcement by the Public Security Department that 461 persons, who either took the drugs or were drug traffickers, were apprehended in the country in the past year alone; and that a total of 416 kilograms of hashish and opium and six kilos of heroin were seized during search operations in 1985.

These figures are appalling for a small country like ours which has witnessed a gradual increase in the number of drug addicts over the past 10 years. And that is why we can only applaud the government's decision to set up the ad hoc committee to advise on ways of stemming the threat of drugs and to follow up on measures aimed at providing treatment for drug addicts to rehabilitate them and make them useful citizens again.

In a speech to a conference on drug abuse held in New York City in October of last year, Her Majesty Queen Noor pointed out that among the nations of the world, Jordan is perhaps fortunate in not having to deal with a drug abuse problem of major proportions, though the drug abuse problem had begun to affect new segments of the population, extending beyond the isolated pockets of foreign workers or Jordanians returning from abroad. The Queen said that Jordan's position between the world's major drug-producing and drug-consuming regions imposes on it a special responsibility to combat international drug trafficking with all the means at its disposal and she called for the establishment of a national cure and rehabilitation centre for drug addicts.

The government, in compliance with our national requirements and responsibilities and in response to the Queen's call, is now trying to do just what should be done with the purpose of deterring further drug abuse and rehabilitating those who have already fallen victim to addiction. This step is just one more means of building a healthy society capable of carrying out national development, and we wholeheartedly support it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Growing resistance

THE Israeli authorities would be wrong to believe that imposing a curfew on Nablus or any other West Bank city will put an end to resistance activity against Israeli troops. The resistance activity in the occupied Arab territories are bound to intensify and increase as long as the Israelis continue to ignore the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. What has happened in Nablus is another manifestation of the determination of the Palestinian people to carry on the struggle for liberating their land and regaining their rights in their own homeland. The attack on the Israeli forces in Nablus is another proof that resistance activity is engineered from inside and not outside the occupied Palestinian land. Perhaps what happened in Nablus is a sign that Palestinian resistance to Israeli rule is becoming more organised and more intensified, the longer the occupation lasts and the more adamant the Israeli leaders become.

Al Dustour: Islamic unity

A communique issued by the 16th Islamic foreign ministers conference in Fez emphasised the need for maintaining unity within the Islamic world in the face of numerous threats and dangers that confront the Arabs and Muslim people. The most important issue towards which the Arabs and Muslims must be united is the continued occupation of Palestinian land. The representatives of the 45 Arab and Islamic nations have stressed this point at the conference and in their final communique, but their voice will be more loudly heard and their views regarded seriously by other nations of the world if they put these ideas into practice. But, we cannot help expressing our disappointment at the failure of the Arab and Islamic foreign ministers at not being able to find an effective measure to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end. The Gulf conflict, now in its sixth year, has sapped many Islamic resources and weakened the Arab and Islamic worlds. We had hoped that the final communique would include practical steps to be taken towards resolving the Gulf issue, but this has not materialised. Despite that we still hope that the Arabs and Muslims will eventually be able to find a way of persuading the two sides to end their differences by peaceful means, and set their efforts towards further strengthening Arab and Islamic ranks.

Sawt Al Shaab: People's will

THE upsurge of resistance activity in Nablus and Jerusalem these days demonstrate a strong will on the part of the Palestinian people to resist the presence and the occupation of Israeli authority of Arab land, and the usurpation of Arab rights. What has happened in Jerusalem and Nablus is a manifestation of resistance struggle against the common enemy and a course that should be followed for the sake of regaining Arab rights. The policy of resistance which bore fruit in Lebanon, and earlier in Vietnam and Algeria is now being implemented in the occupied Arab territories. Such activity is a natural response to repression and arbitrary measures imposed on the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who try to liberate their lands from occupation. The resistance activity in the occupied lands is another proof of the deep-rooted links between the Palestinian Arabs and their homeland, and a reconfirmation of historical facts which our Israeli enemies are trying to obliterate.

Decisive acts needed to revitalise Mideast peace process

By Jameh B. Ne'matt

AMMAN — Most Middle East experts agree that prospects for peace will largely depend on three elements: the extent of superpower involvement, the presence of a suitable political climate and the protagonists' readiness to make bold moves for peace. The experts differ, however, on how much weight to give each of these factors.

The next step in the Arab-Israeli peace process must be political as well as diplomatic, says Harold Saunders, who served as U.S. national security official under five presidents and a top aide to former President Jimmy Carter. "Top political leaders should break down the political barriers and commit themselves to a negotiated settlement," Dr. Saunders said, emphasising that the experience of the peace process in the 1970's demonstrated that progress in negotiation "followed only after decisive political acts set the stage."

The peace process is first a political process and only second a negotiating process, Dr. Saunders said. "The issue for leaders who want to negotiate peace is how to shape that political process," he said. "Prudent policy makers will sit back and ask themselves whether the moment is ripe for any movement towards a negotiated peace at all. Bold ones will also ask how — or at least whether — they can help the moment ripen."

Dr. Saunders says that the current situation poses three questions to President Reagan and leaders in the Middle East: "Will yet another war, or a bloodbath in the occupied West Bank, be needed to bring the process to life again? Have the policies of inaction so paralysed leaders that no peaceful alternatives remain? Can statesmen perhaps skillfully turn the politics of impasse into the politics of progress?"

Dr. Saunders praised the Feb. 11 agreement signed in Amman between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "For the first time," he said, "we saw the PLO grappling with the practical problem of how to move from point A to point B." Dr. Saunders pointed out that "in the real world, moving the West Bank from Israeli military occupation is a very complicated matter. Who's going to rule that entity?"

Referring to the need for the PLO to accept United Nations Resolution 242, Dr. Saunders said "we know that 242 does not cover the Palestinian problem in all its aspects but we should subscribe to the purpose which is getting parties to the negotiating table."

"I would be happy if Chairman Arafat would say the PLO is ready to negotiate peace with Israel if they are ready to negotiate with us," Dr. Saunders said in an interview over the weekend with the Jordan Times. He pointed to the PLO's charter, which he described as "a political fact which represents an obstacle."

According to Dr. Saunders, the parties involved in the conflict, in cooperation with the United States "should agree on a scenario for peace negotiations by identifying steps to be made and beginning to build bilateral assurances." Asked about the political dangers that would result from one party dropping out or failing to fulfill commitments, such as in the case of Israel in Camp David, Dr. Saunders said "we would have to take the word of the Israeli prime minister."

Camp David failures

Dr. Saunders, who was President Carter's top aide at Camp David, acknowledged that there was a failure in following up on the

Camp David agreement. He was apparently referring to the failure to put a freeze on all settlements in the occupied territories, its invasion of Lebanon, the attack on the Israeli reactor and other acts in violation of the Camp David peace treaty with Egypt.

Dr. Saunders attributed the U.S. administration's failure to follow up on the Camp David agreement to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the U.S. hostilities in Iran and the Sen. Edward Kennedy election challenge.

Although he acknowledged the present Israeli government "cannot say it will withdraw from territories occupied in 1967, there is a political party there (Labour) which says it is ready to exchange territory for peace."

Dr. Saunders said that the PLO should make a move to create the political atmosphere that would strengthen the Labour Party's position in the Israeli government. He said that the Labour Party's position emanates from the awareness that Israel has no choice but to relinquish the occupied territories. "For Israel to democratically govern the West Bank will make it cease to be an exclusive Jewish state. The military occupation also constitutes a massive violation of human rights," Dr. Saunders said adding that "treating Palestinians as second class citizens will ultimately lead to a bloodbath. The solution is to withdraw."

'Self-government'

Dr. Saunders contends that when Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres talks about Palestinian self-government, "he means self-determination. I think Peres is not trying to evade anything."

With the Middle East "peace process" at a virtual halt, the opportunity for peace is slipping away, Dr. Saunders warns. The five agreements that the United States mediated during the 1970s illustrate that progress towards peace has been made, and further progress is still possible, he argues. Dr. Saunders played an active role in all the Middle East peace negotiations throughout the seventies.

"Progress towards an Arab-Israeli peace depends first on convincing human beings — individually and then collectively — that peace is possible," Dr. Saunders said in his recently published book "The Other Walls." The political leaders' ability to change the political environment is a prerequisite. Only after political change have occurred does the mediator, the mediator, and the mediator stand a chance."

Alternatives to peace

An alternative to peace may be a term shift in the strategic and tactical map of the Middle East, according to Dr. Saunders. He cited contributing factors the strengthening of military forces in Israel, Iraq, along with a rise of Islamic fundamentalism that could cause a "negotiable conflict" between states into a religious conflict "has no peaceful solution in their term."

"Reviving the peace process in the mid-1980s will require the United States to pay more attention to the political foundations for negotiations that it has paid at in the past," Dr. Saunders said in his book. He also explored underlying reasons why parties to the struggle will not talk about discussed approaches to "building the human

and political environment necessary for sustained negotiations."

Dr. Saunders insisted that the United States "has a hard-calculated interest in peace" in the Middle East. "The job is to present the president with a dramatisation to prompt a change in policy."

Dr. Saunders, a softspoken but decisive man, has reached a point in his professional career where he feels very comfortable with his analytical grasp of the Arab-Israeli problem and is no longer threatened by personal attacks, especially those that periodically emanate from Israeli or pro-Israeli circles.

In a book entitled "Between Washington and Jerusalem" Jerusalem Post Washington Bureau Chief Wolf Blitzer says of Dr. Saunders: "Quietly but persistently, Saunders had emerged as a key figure in the shaping of U.S. policy. Intellectual consistency — that's what Saunders brought most to U.S. policy. He had been around the White House, the State Department and other branches of the government for a long time. Because most of his career involved the Middle East, Saunders gained a reputation as a typical State Department Arabist."

In commenting on Jordan's role in keeping alive the exploratory momentum for peace, Dr. Saunders said: "I really think the Jordanian government has quite a coherent strategy, acting with great maturity and vision. His Majesty King Hussein undertook a great task bringing in the PLO, the Syrians and has done a good job moving the United States. If I had to grade governments for efforts on behalf of the peace process, I would give Jordan the highest grade."

'Saunders Document'

November 12, 1975, marked a turning point in Dr. Saunders' career. On that day he testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East. The subject on the agenda was the Palestinians. Democratic Subcommittee Chairman Lee Hamilton had asked the State Department to provide an in-depth analysis of the Palestinian question, and everyone at State realised that the subject was potentially explosive. There were four possible candidates to deliver the testimony: Henry Kissinger, Joseph Sisco, Alfred Atherton and Harold Saunders. A decision was made to send Dr. Saunders, who was the lowest ranking of the four. He prepared most of the eleven-page presentation. Thus began the "Saunders Document" affair.

"In many ways," Dr. Saunders had told the subcommittee, "the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the heart of the conflict." That drew a very negative reaction from Israeli leaders. The Israeli cabinet issued a formal communique sharply rejecting the document, resulting in a serious strain in American-Israeli relations.

It was the first time the United States recognised the Palestinian "legitimate rights and just requirements," and the need to resolve the Palestinian question "in all its aspects."

What the "Saunders Document" did assert was that a final settlement would have to include "a just and permanent status for the Arab people who consider themselves Palestinians." Dr. Saunders had to accept a lot of personal criticism from Israel and its supporters during that episode. The writer is on the staff of the Jordan Times.

Historic Punjab peace pact on brink of collapse

By Brahma Chellaney

The Associated Press

AMRITSAR, India — Less than six months after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed a historic peace accord with Sikh moderates, the settlement is on the brink of collapse and Punjab state is torn by turmoil and terrorism. In a bloody resurgence of Sikh terrorism, at least 56 people have been slain in hit-and-run attacks in the past three months, 17 of them in the last week alone, in the predominantly Sikh state that also is India's breadbasket.

The governing Akali Dal Party of Sikh moderates is heading for a potentially violent confrontation Friday and Jan. 26 with Sikh militants over the radicals' protest plans. That has spurred fears that authorities may again have to send security troops into Amritsar's Golden Temple — Sikhism's equivalent of the Vatican.

The Punjab government has announced that it will use police and paramilitary troops to prevent Sikh radical youths from staging a statewide road blockade on Friday. It has asked the federal government to rush paramilitary reinforcements.

The all-India Sikh Students Federation, many of its members advocating Punjab's independence from India, said it has formed "commando squads" to block traffic and that 6,000 of its activists have gone underground following a government crackdown. The powerful extremist body operates from the Golden Temple.

A bigger confrontation is expected on Jan. 26 — India's Republic Day — when the militants plan to demolish and rebuild the Akal Takht building, Sikhism's highest seat of authority.

The differences between the militants and moderates are essentially ideological. But the radicals are demanding release of all youths imprisoned under controversial anti-terrorism laws and a general pardon for Sikh soldiers who mutinied following the 1984 army attack on the Golden Temple.

"The motive of the extremists is to discredit the new state government, which — ironically — released many of them from jails after it came to power," said N.C. Menon, chief editor of the influential Hindustan Times newspaper. In an interview.

The Akal Takht, a place of confession, penance and baptism and housing one of the world's largest thrones, was virtually demolished in the June 1984 army assault. A majority of the reported 1,200 deaths occurred there.

On one of the few issues they agree, Sikh moderates and militants say that the government-sponsored reconstruction of the Akal Takht "polluted" the sacred building and it should be pulled down and rebuilt by Sikhs themselves.

The moderates called for a Jan. 27 meeting in the Golden Temple complex, seat of the Akal Takht, to start the demolition and re-

building in the Sikh tradition of "Kar Seva," or voluntary work. In a preemptive move, the radicals called for a "Kar Seva" meeting a day earlier. They announced that supporters of the moderates' peace accord with New Delhi will not be permitted to participate in reconstruction.

The militants earlier had demolished the ornate first-floor marble balcony of the Akal Takht with pickaxes and iron rods on Oct. 31, the first anniversary of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination.

The survival of the state government run by Sikh moderates is linked to the future of the peace accord, rejected by the radicals as a "treacherous sellout."

Extremists assassinated the leader of moderates, Harmand Singh Longowal, less than a month after he signed the 11-point package settlement with Gandhi in New Delhi.

"The new year has begun on a distressing note for both Punjab and Haryana with the July Rajiv-Longowal accord in imminent danger of collapsing," wrote editor Rahul Singh in the Indian Express, India's largest selling English daily, this week.

"Should that happen, the Akali Dal ministry, which came to power (in Punjab) less than four months ago, could well fall, thus giving a tremendous boost to Sikh extremists in the state," he said.

The renewed terrorism and uncertainty about the accord's future is a major embarrassment to Punjab chief minister Surjit Singh Barnala. His government ordered the release of nearly 2,000 jailed radical youths in a move to bring them into the mainstream.

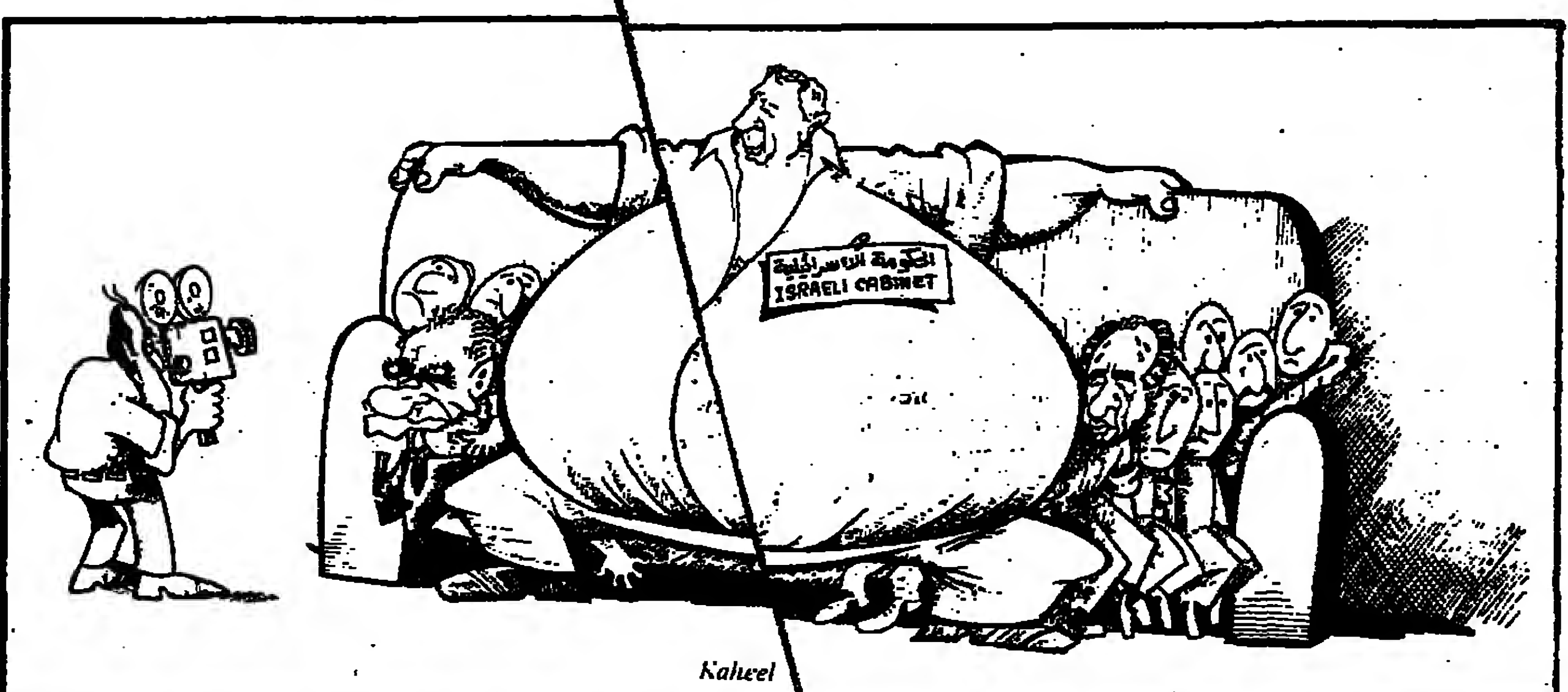
"Since our leniency has been abused, we will have to deal sternly with disruptive forces who want to keep the pot boiling," said Barnala. His Akali Dal Party swept to power in the Sept. 25 state election. The poll was boycotted by Sikh militants.

The major weakness of the accord is New Delhi's failure to resolve Punjab's lingering territorial and river water disputes with the rival Hindu-dominated state of Haryana.

Under the settlement, judicial panels will arbitrate the three main Sikh demands on territory, interstate river water and political autonomy.

Analysts say terrorists will step up attacks with the approach of the accord's Jan. 26 deadline for merger of disputed Chandigarh city with Punjab. In New Delhi, security has been tightened and VIPs have been advised to take different routes to work every day to thwart assassins.

The settlement gave Punjab sole control over Chandigarh, built by French architect Le Corbusier in the 1950s and now shared with Haryana. But the agreement also called for a tribunal to identify by last Dec. 31 those Hindi-speaking areas in Punjab to be merged with Haryana in exchange for Chandigarh.



Conclusion from Arab American Dialogue II

By Tom Smerling

The writer, who is with the Bush Foundation, participated in a conference — Arab American Dialogue II — which was held in Amman Jan. 7-8, 1985. The following is Mr. Smerling's conclusions on the conference, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum and the American Enterprise Institute.

FOLLOWING one and one-half days of discussions on international relations in the Middle East, the Arab-American Dialogue II adjourned with the sense that this was a uniquely candid and valuable exchange. Many participants felt that this discussion was unusual in that it went beyond the usual platitudes and generalities which characterise such discussions. Instead of trying to minimise or avoid differences between the two cultures, this seminar sought to draw out these differences in perspectives, in priorities, in views of political systems.

The tone was one which reflected a general recognition that understanding and awareness of these differences is a necessary basis for fruitful dialogue.

Among the conclusions which emerged from the sessions are the following points:

1. Traditional discussions of systems of world order often focus only on the major powers and neglect the role of smaller states. A new vision of world order is needed which provides for increasing roles for medium and small states and provides for resolution of conflict without violence.

2. Development of the concept of realism, in the Middle East and elsewhere, is one promising approach to building a new world order, increasing exchange between nations is the next step.

3. Core principles of equal justice, human rights and self-determination must be part of any discussion of world order and foreign policy. A trend towards concern of for power and narrowly defined self-interest would be disastrous and probably self-defeating.

4. There is considerable frustration about the role of the United States in the Middle East. While it is to be a mediator, the United States is often perceived as a partisan ally of Israel.

5. The status quo is very dangerous, lending prey to the

need for constructive involvement of the United States. If the current situation continues, it may unleash extremist forces throughout the region.

6. A deeper understanding of how foreign policy is made in the various states, including the United States, is valuable for understanding how states can influence each other.

The American delegation left with many an insight which they will incorporate into their forthcoming book titled "New Directions in Foreign Policy: The U.S. in a Changing Middle East." There is hope that this seminar can be the beginning of an ongoing dialogue in the region and the United States which can yield not only better understanding but some tangible new ideas about how the United States and Middle East states can more effectively relate to each other.

Qadhafi: But why call me a terrorist?

BY Kate Dourian

Reuter

TRIPOLI — He admires George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. He is an accomplished horseman. His favourite books include "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "Roots". Beethoven is a cherished composer.

The leader of 3.6 million Libyans, he threatened to send soldiers to the United States. Colonel Muammar Qadhafi has been an enigma since seizing power in Libya in 1969 at the age of 27.

Dressed in a smart safari-suit covered by a long, brown cloak and lounging in a chair, Qadhafi told five women reporters of his likes, thoughts, ideas and beliefs.

He said his dream was to make people free and happy in a utopian society of his own making.

"I had a general idea how to make the masses free, how to make man happy. After that, things started to get clearer," said Qadhafi, a son of the desert who was born in the Mediterranean city of Sirte in 1942.

Tall, thick-set, with a backward tilt of the head that makes him

seem supercilious at times, Qadhafi speaks in halting English. He reveals an almost child-like quality that is a far cry from his image abroad as a man to be feared.

He has not travelled much and is surprised to hear that President Ronald Reagan, who this week slapped punitive economic sanctions on Libya, is a popular man.

"They do? They love him?" Qadhafi asked when told that Reagan was loved by most Americans. "But he did many crimes in the world," Qadhafi declared.

While he appears to have an almost personal antipathy towards Reagan, who he has called "an ageing third-rate actor," Qadhafi said he admired former U.S. Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Other past world leaders he admires are Egypt's late Gamal Abdel Nasser, India's Mahatma Gandhi, Sun Yat-Sen of China and Italy's Garibaldi and Mazzini.

Qadhafi laughed heartily at stories about the peculiarities of life in the United States. He wanted to know more about Las Vegas and about our lives, backgrounds and religion.

He learned English at school in Tripoli and later had a brief course

at Wilton Park in Wensfield, near London, in 1969, but he said he did not belong.

It must have been that he read "The Outsider" by British author Colin Wilson, which he likes as his favourite book, that he likes as "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Roots" by Alex Haley.

Besides reading, his favourite pastimes are horse riding — his known to be an accomplished equestrian — and playing football. He likes classical music, Beethoven in particular.

Throughout the interview Qadhafi sought to portray himself as a man able to smile and laugh and he proved a hospitable host. He was apparently pained when he was unable to provide cigarettes for one of his interviewers.

Qadhafi's ideas about the role of women in society are liberal and he says he is campaigning to make it illegal for Libyan men to marry more than one woman.

Now married to a former nurse, who rarely appears in public, he has seven children, six of them boys and one girl.

Qadhafi created a sensation when, on rare travels abroad, he

appeared surrounded by gun-toting women bodyguards.

He is reported to have survived several attempts on his life in Libya and is heavily protected at home at all times. His headquarters at the Bab Al Aziziya barracks in Tripoli is a maze guarded by green barbed wire painted with slogans from his "Green Book" of ideological and political dogma.

The compound is an almost impenetrable fortress and several tanks can be seen around the sprawling grounds.

Heightened tension with the United States and the threat of what he sees as an American attack on his country has given Qadhafi cause for joy as Arab leaders rally to his support.

He told newsmen last week that an American threat had made "the leader of the resistance" in the Arab world, "likewise it is during the Arab crisis of the Arab world."

Qadhafi has inspired him since childhood and he has sought to emulate and possibly replace him as an Arab leader. "Our teacher," the Libyan leader declared last week.

Farmer's bicycle invention improves seed planting

By Wang Qinghua

A bicycle-mounted seed sower invented by a Chinese peasant is becoming popular with farmers in China because it is effective, inexpensive, easily made and does not consume energy.

Installed under the cross beam of a bicycle, the seed drill performs all of the sowing procedures — furrow digging, seed placement, furrow covering and pressing — almost all at the same time. The device is reported to be four times more efficient than traditional animal-drawn sowing devices widely used in many hilly areas of rural China.

The inventor of the bicycle drill is Chang Xiangbin, 31, a peasant living in Fucheng County, Hebei Province, about 320 kilometres south of Peking.

The seed sower is inexpensive, costing only 16 yuan (about \$3.3) to make. The device has proved so popular that Chang has received orders from the local government to start a factory to produce the drills. About 10,000 were turned out in the first year and orders are continuing to come in from across the country.

Chang has received growing recognition from government officials, and attended China's first science, technology and trade fair

in Peking last May in order to demonstrate his invention. The seed sower also was recommended by the State Scientific and Technological Commission for display at the Exhibition of Achievements of the World's Young Inventors in Bulgaria.

Chang first conceived of the idea for the device after seeing many bicycles standing idle at the edge of fields during the sowing season.

After 300 experiments during a year and a half, his bicycle drill took its final form last year.

The bicycle drill is considered to be more suitable for peasants who have scattered plots far away from their village.

Peasants in Chang's village have many small pieces of land far away from the village which are unsuitable for sowing by large machines. And skilled barrow operators in the village are scarce.

After realising the extent of the problem, Chang was able to design a practical solution in the shape of his sower.

It works in the following manner:

The triangular-shaped drill is composed of a seed-box, a seed-tube, a furrow opener, a seed-stirring wheel, a transmission shaft and a transmission wheel. All fixed

on a bicycle. When a farmer pushes the bicycle forward, the bicycle's rear wheel powers the drill's rubber transmission wheel, which then turns the steel transmission shaft and the plastic seed-stirring wheel in the plastic seed-box.

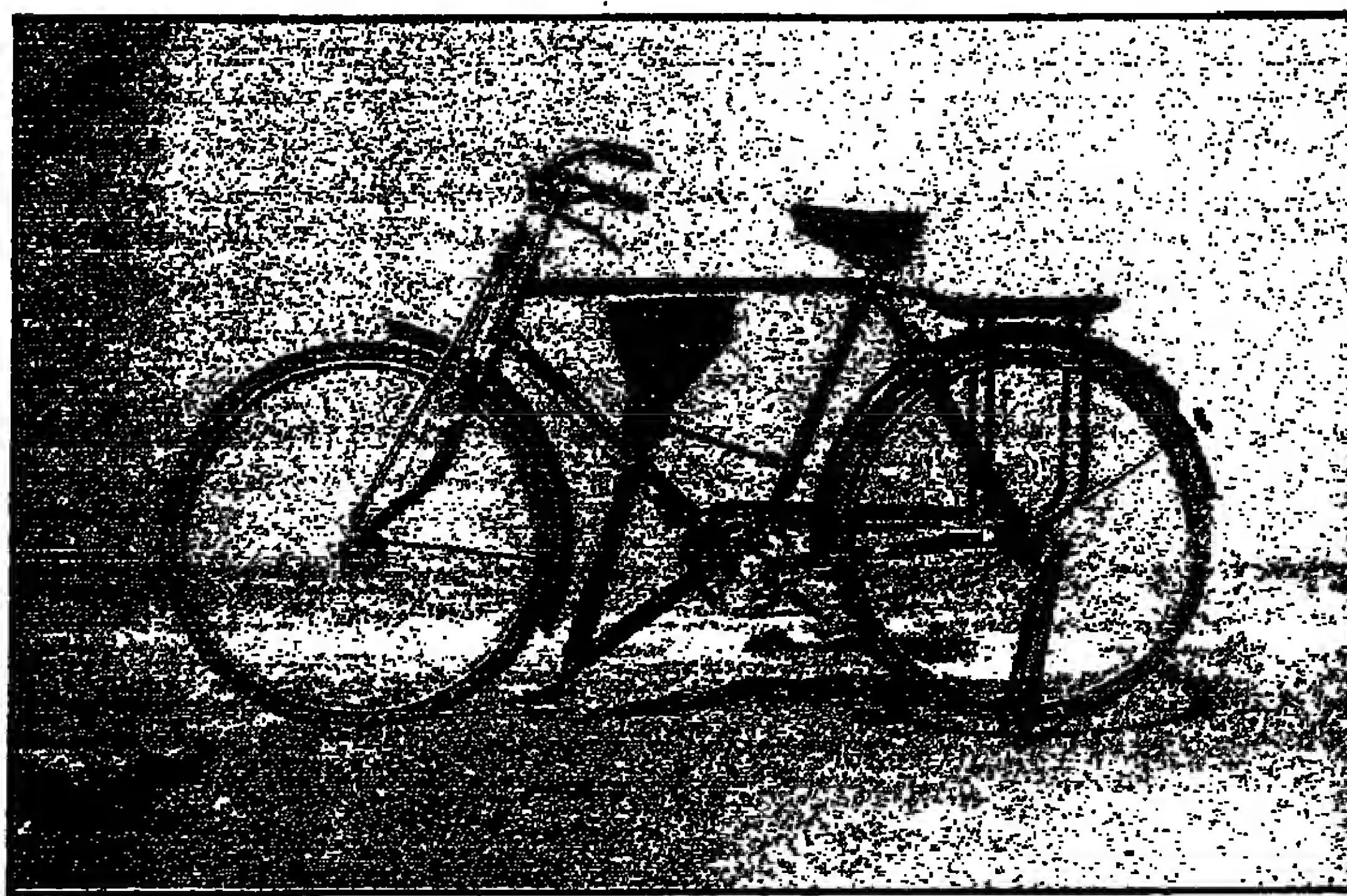
As a result, the seeds in the box drop through the plastic tube into the furrow dug by the small iron plow. After this, the rear wheel of the bicycle covers the furrow with soil and presses it.

In the box is a rubber scraper, placed near the seed-stirring wheel to prevent excessive seeds from going into the tube. The amount of seeds to be sown is controlled by adjusting the gap between the scraper and the seed-stirring wheel.

Different seeds require different seed-stirring wheels with holes varying in size and number. Five types of the wheels have been designed for sowing wheat, cotton, corn, millet and soybeans.

The furrow opener is fixed with an iron ring at the lower end of the seed-tube. By loosening the ring, the small plow can be moved up and down to adjust the sowing depth.

The drill, pushed manually through the fields, sows seeds in the same depth and immediately covers them with soil. This helps preserve soil moisture and promotes



seedling growth, particularly in the case of sesame and cotton seeds, whose seedlings have more difficulty coming out the soil.

When maize is sown, the drill saves 30 per cent of seeds, compared with the wooden barrow. The bicycle-drill also can be used to apply chemical fertilizer to

seedlings. It does not harm young plants because the digging of fertilizer furrows follows exactly the track of the bicycle's front wheel piloted by the operator. The fertilizer does not easily run away because the furrows are covered immediately by the rear tire.

And Chang's invention has one more practical feature appreciated by the farmers. After sowing, the farmer can move the plow up into the tube, separate the drill's transmission wheel from the bicycle's rear wheel by loosening the screws on the transmission shaft, and ride the bicycle home — China features.

Many of world's big cities have that sinking feeling

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — London is sinking. So are Tokyo, Bangkok, Shanghai, Houston, New Orleans, and even landlocked Mexico City and Las Vegas.

More than a dozen of the world's great cities are slowly sinking into the lands on which they were built, some at worrisome rates, dropping as much as a foot a year.

Most are sinking not under their own weight, but because so much groundwater has been pumped out from under them. Most are located in coastal areas, sitting on soft sand, silt, or clay, the kind of soil that easily compacts when large volumes of water are withdrawn.

Compounding the sinking situation is the global rise in sea levels, up to a foot or more a century, which raises the risk of flooding for some cities.

Worsening problem

Although cities have been sinking for centuries, the problem has worsened in the past 40 years, according to geologists Robert Dolan and Grant Goodell of the University of Virginia's environmental sciences department. The unprecedented demand for water for people and industry has tapped the cheapest source: the ground beneath our feet.

When cities sink, buildings crack or drop unevenly, and streets and sidewalks buckle. "People used to live with it. As structures sank, they'd build on top of them or move away," Dolan says. "There's an ancient church in Italy's Po Valley that has three sets of columns. The first set is now in the basement under water."

"But modern life complicates matters. New construction is expensive, land values are high. Sub-

ways, sewers, and often utility lines are underground, so you can't afford sudden variations in land levels. Also, over the centuries, many structures have become historical treasures and can't be moved from their threatened positions."

Venice, a classic case of a city already partially submerged by the sea, increased its rate of sinking tenfold between 1950 and 1970 by withdrawing groundwater at a time of sea-level rise. As a result, the chemical pollution in the Venetian lagoon has become a serious threat, decaying the base of buildings.

London's renowned Big Ben tower, now under repair, was cracked and leaning about 18 inches because the city has been sinking along the Thames, about a foot a century.

The \$1 billion Thames Barrier, completed last year, is designed to control storm surge from the English Channel and prevent London's vital subway system from flooding. Because of the continued sinking of the city, the barrier, 10 movable gates built side-by-side across the river, is estimated to be effective for about 100 years.

Step off the curb in Mexico City, and you may step down more than a foot in some places. The world's largest metropolis, built 7,347 feet up on a lake bed, is a rare example of an inland sinking city. It drops as much as 10 inches a year. "The big problem is that the land does not all go down together," Dolan says. "This differential subsidence has sunk some buildings a few feet and some from 18 to 25 feet."

Ascending angel

The famous El Angel monument, erected in 1910 for Mexico's centennial of independence, appears to be ascending into the

sky as the buildings and streets around it sink. Every few years, a new stair step has to be added to its pedestal. El Angel itself, like other structures in the city, rests on pilings set deep in solid ground.

The entire Thai capital of Bangkok is in danger of falling below sea level by the year 2000. The water table that keeps the city afloat has dropped severely because of some 11,000 wells needed for drinking water. Bangkok has sunk nearly three feet in the past 30 years, and recently that rate has accelerated in some sections of the city.

A number of U.S. cities from Savannah, Ga., to Long Beach, Calif., are in various states of depression. Some are slight, such as Las Vegas, which is being pulled down because the enormous weight of the water trapped in Lake Mead by Hoover Dam is depressing the earth's crust. Two of the worst cases are Houston and New Orleans.

"Houston is a textbook case of man's impact on the environment," Dolan says. "Low coastal area, soft sediments (clay and sand), rapid industrialization, explosive population and urbanization, and the dredging of a big ship channel."

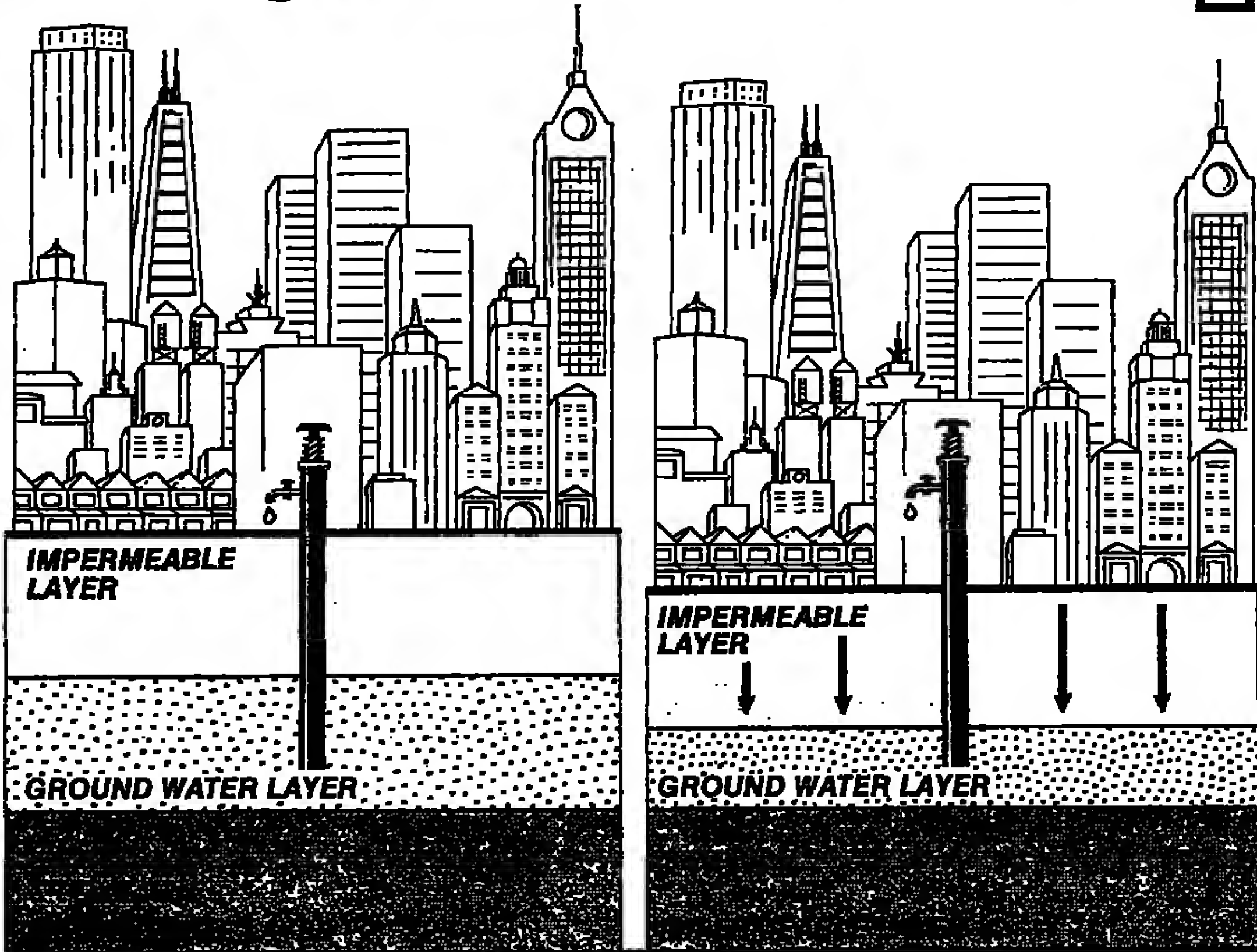
As a result of its Texas-size thirst for groundwater, the nation's fourth-largest city has sunk four feet in the past 80 years, and its western section is expected to sink four feet in the next 20 years. To the east, whole neighborhoods, in the Baytown area along the Houston Ship Channel have been abandoned to Galveston Bay.

"Sinking is an almost inevitable consequence of industrial expansion," Goodell says. Ironically, development occurs where groundwater is available and cheap.

New Orleans is so soggy that millions of gallons of seep water

Sinking Cities

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More than a dozen of the world's great cities, from London to Tokyo, Houston to Bangkok are slowly sinking into the lands on which they were built.

When too much of the water needed for urban development is pumped from the ground beneath, pressure within the soil decreases and the ground water layer compacts.

must be drained from it each day. About 45 per cent of the city is at or below sea level. The Superdome is supported by 2,266 concrete piles driven down more than 150 feet. Unlike Houston, New Orleans is sinking from long-term natural subsidence.

"No one sat around a conference table some 260 years ago and discussed the variables in developing the site," Dolan says. "Now we have to defend it and save it."

Defensive measures

Almost all sinking cities have taken some steps to control groundwater withdrawals, and a number also have constructed enormous engineering works to do everything from lessening the threat of flooding to prop up sagging and leaning buildings.

But even in cities where sinking has been slowed or stopped, there has been almost no recovery in ground elevation. The two geologists have discovered.

Additionally at risk today, Goodell says, are developing Third World cities, such as Bangladesh's capital, Dacca, that cannot afford the cost of long-distance water.

"One of the greatest engineering and social challenges of the next century will be how to save sinking cities," he says. The staggering solutions range from raising the cities by filling soil behind dikes to packing up and moving them to higher ground.

Soviet media debate merits of reporting the bad news

By Charles Bremner
Reader

MOSCOW — Two Soviet newspapers are taking criticism from the new Kremlin leadership to heart, publishing complaints that the official press tries to hide the truth.

One striking letter in the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya this month said: "They must have the courage to tell people about unexpected or negative events."

The letters, also published by the government daily Izvestiya, were the latest evidence of a debate on how much the tightly-controlled media should report.

They reflect a campaign by the new leader Mikhail Gorbachev for more openness from the country's administrators and more frank

reporting from the press. Though strictly orthodox in his commitment to the one-party state, Gorbachev has made clear he thinks the public can be trusted with more information.

He has set the example by allowing himself to be seen facing questions from foreign reporters on sensitive topics and allowing President Reagan to set out his views in a new year message on state television.

Unlike news media in the West, the Soviet press and broadcasting system have the primary task of promoting support for the Communist Party and loyalty to the state.

To this end, "bad" news affecting the Soviet Union or its allies is rarely reported, leading people to glean information from foreign

radio broadcasts and a thriving rumormongering.

The rule affects disasters like fires and plane crashes. One letter in Sovetskaya Rossiya compared the heavy publicity given by the state media to the recent Mexican earthquake and Colombian volcano disaster with their near silence on a killer quake in Soviet Central Asia.

"Such silence gives me the impression that it is based on nothing but lack of faith in readers and viewers — as if they might somehow misunderstand," the letter writer said.

A letter in Izvestiya complained that the newspaper had failed to report on a rash of deaths through poisoning by illicit alcohol in Moscow in November.

"They talk about openness as a sign of trust in the people, and in

practice... they keep many things secret."

Other letters pointed at attempts to hush up failings in the Soviet economy and to over-praise dubious achievements.

"Things do not get better with loud reports and the beating of drums," said one letter in Sovetskaya Rossiya, a party newspaper which has led the drive for more open reporting.

Late last year it also led a campaign against the Moscow city administration, implicating the city party boss, Viktor Grishin, and its mayor, Vladimir Proklov.

Both men lost their jobs. Though Grishin was widely seen as likely to be removed by the new leadership, it was highly unusual for a member of the Kremlin's rul-

ing politburo to come under fire, even indirectly, in the press.

The state media have for some time acted as policemen, exposing incompetence and dishonesty among the lower levels of officialdom.

The most authoritative newspaper, Pravda, set out the argument in an editorial last month accusing the rest of the press of boring and repetitive reporting that left readers sceptical and indifferent.

Pravda said the media should stop being dull and inspire the people to greater heights.

But Pravda and the rest of the state media showed the limits to openness by failing to report all but the least controversial sections of a speech on the same theme by poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

Addressing an official writers' congress in Moscow in December, Yevtushenko blasted newspaper editors and book publishers for lying, distorting the facts and complacency.

Echoing Gorbachev's calls he said: "Articles rhetorically calling for openness are not the same as openness itself."

Like other commentators on the theme, he said honest reporting was needed to defeat the Soviet system against attack from its enemies who concocted anti-Soviet news "from things that we hide and hush up."

A nation that allows itself to analyse its own mistakes and tragedies "bravely knocks the ideological weapon out of its enemies' hands," he said.

Randa Habib's Corner

Made in Jordan

CARNATIONS, gladiolas, lilies and roses are nowadays the only available flowers in Jordan since the government decision to ban the import of flowers.

Why not? The advantage for the buyer is that the bills are much more reasonable. I asked a few flower shops in Amman: what is the highest price for a normal size basket of flowers. Their answer was that it varies between JD 15 to 20. The reason is of course that orchids, birds of paradise and other rare specimen of imported flowers are not available anymore. But the problem is that with the limited choice and quantity of flowers available, the prices fluctuate like in a stock market. Some farms, which are now growing flowers, decide their own prices. Flower shops too, could raise their prices to thirty per cent on a day when, say, roses are not available, and so on.

Roses are now sold at 500 to 600 fils each. But two weeks ago, for some reason they went up to 800 fils each. Carnations were worth 350 fils each, but on cold days you may be asked to pay more.

As for the greenery, it is simply inexistent. One day I asked the flower shop assistant to put some green with my bouquet of roses, he went out of the shop and cut some branches from the tree on the pavement. "That's the best I can do, we don't have green leaves anymore," he said.

This is absurd. If we were able in a relative short time to grow several kinds of flowers, we can certainly find a way of growing the greenery that goes it.

All it takes is some organisation and planning.

Film of Arab-Israeli Romeo and Juliet disturbs both sides

By Bernard Edinger
Reader

RAMALLAH, West Bank — A film of the Romeo and Juliet story set in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict has resulted in rare agreement between Arabs and Jews: Neither like it.

"A very Narrow Bridge," by Israeli director Nissim Dayan, recounts the love of an Israeli officer and a young Arab widow in this centre of Palestinian nationalism in the Israeli occupied West Bank.

When filming took place in Ramallah some residents took advantage of a scene where demonstrators throw stones at the hero to hurl rocks at the camera crew.

In the film, Israeli lawyer Benny Taggar meets beautiful Palestinian schoolteacher Leila Mansoor when Taggar, on army reserve duty in Ramallah, storms into Mansoor's school after students stone his car.

Taggar is smitten by the fiery-eyed Palestinian, played by Israeli-Arab Salwa Nakkara Hadad, who stands up to him when he breaks into her office.

The lawyer, portrayed by Israeli actor Aharon Ipele, pursues and finally wins the widow, creating scandal among townspeople and occupation forces alike.

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet tells the story of two young lovers from warring clans who defy their families to meet.

The Israeli film, while touching the same subject, has so far failed to match Shakespeare's popularity, though it has been playing in one Tel Aviv cinema for nearly two months.

"Israelis feel the subject is too close to unpleasant realities and it disturbs them," said director

Dayan. An international premiere is, however, planned for Paris.

The Israeli press Arabic newspapers published in east Jerusalem generally gave it a cool reception. The East Jerusalem weekly Al Awdah said the film "stretches the bounds of credibility to their limits."

Israel's English-language daily, the Jerusalem Post, had mixed feelings about it but credited Dayan with "making a valiant effort to make a serious statement about Israeli-Arab relations."

Two men — one Jewish, one Arab — who as teenagers belonged to clandestine groups on either side of the Arab-Israeli divide said the film's love affair could never take place in reality.

"I live in Ramallah and can tell you that no Palestinian woman, even if she did not care that we live under Israeli occupation, would dare go out with an Israeli soldier," said Sami Al Aboudi, who served a year's prison term for membership of the Palestinian Fatah organisation 10 years ago.

He thinks "Bridge" depicts Palestinians as primitive and violent. The film will strengthen stereotypes about "terrorists" which were applied to him when he was 17, says Al Aboudi, who is now news editor of the English-language weekly Al Fajr.

But Gil Kessary, also a journalist, working for the Hebrew daily Maariv, feels the film is harsh on Israelis and kind to Palestinians. Kessary belonged to the Irgun underground seeking to end the British mandate over Palestine in 1948, when he was 17.

Al Aboudi says: "The film is dangerous politically but I must admit it is well done technically. At the end, one suffers with the lovers and fears for them."

Was 'King Kong' murdered?

By Paul Verschuur
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Did "King Kong" commit suicide, as the government maintains, or was he murdered?

Belinde Thoenne, who worked with the suspected double agent in the Dutch resistance during World War II, told the Associated Press that she believes he was killed.

Ms. Thoenne has asked a court to make the government release secret files on King Kong, whose real name was Christian Lindemann, so she can investigate his death. The suit was filed by the Haarlems Dagblad newspaper under the Dutch open government law.

On Dec. 2, the Council of State rejected the Dutch domestic security service claim that disclosure of any of its files would harm national security, and gave the agency six weeks to specify in detail why the dossier on King Kong cannot be made public.

The council is the nation's highest authority on government procedures.

Lindemann reportedly drew the nickname King Kong because of his stocky build. A Rotterdam auto mechanic, he joined the Dutch resistance, which fought the 1940-45 German occupation of the Netherlands.

Lindemann has been credited with setting up an escape route for Jews and downed allied flyers. But he reportedly turned traitor and, in 1944 gave vital information to German contacts.

The official wartime history, "The Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Second World War," says Lindemann gave the Nazis allied plans for Operation Market Garden.

Market Garden was intended to liberate the Netherlands and invade Germany, but the operation stalled in September 1944 at the eastern Dutch city of Arnhem. Allied paratroopers encountered unexpectedly heavy resistance

and were unable to cross the Rhine into Germany.

Lindemann reportedly obtained his information from the headquarters of Prince Bernhard, commander-in-chief of Dutch forces.

However, the authoritative history, compiled by Lou de Jong, says the Germans did not take Lindemann's information seriously.

Lindemann was arrested at the end of the war for espionage. The official record says that before he could be tried, he committed suicide in a Dutch prison in 1946 by taking an overdose of drugs.

But Ms. Thoenne said she believes he was murdered.

Ms. Thoenne said she worked with Lindemann in setting up the wartime escape route, but claimed he betrayed 100-150 Dutch resistance fighters, most of whom were sent to Nazi concentration camps.

She offered no evidence to back her claim that Lindemann was murdered, but said he "was not the type" to commit suicide.

Willem Tiemens, an author who has specialised in the Lindemann case, is pursuing the theory that he was helped to escape prison and might still be alive.

Tiemens told the AP that Lindemann's close contact with Prince Bernhard's headquarters had made him a potential embarrassment to the Dutch and British military commands.

Tiemens, who has written extensively on the battle of Arnhem, said his examination of prison and hospital records made the official version of Lindemann's supposed death "just one unlikely thing after another."

The current legal case began in September, when Internal Affairs Minister Koos Rietkerk, whose ministry oversees secret service operations, rejected the newspaper's request for the King Kong file.

Graham Greene at 81, back in Latin America for a new novel

By Matthew Campbell
Reader

MANAGUA — In the lush, volcanic terrain of Nicaragua, Graham Greene samples tropical revolution and searches for an idea that will pay him over 10 years' work.

The idea has to be a good one this time, one which will allow him to ditch his current novel, a non-political work with the projected title of "The Captain and the Enemy."

He has already given it up twice. "I have no confidence in it," he told Reuters in an interview. "I'm doing it very, very slowly and hoping that a real idea will

come and I'll be able to abandon it for the third time."

Greene, 81, one of the world's foremost living authors, is back in a part of the world he loves best, Central America.

He is making a short trip to Nicaragua, a country run by Marxist-inspired Sandinistas who, almost ever since the triumph of their 1979 revolution, have been accused by the United States for exporting Communism and causing tension in the region.

Greene has little time for the accusations. "I'm interested, very interested in Nicaragua," he said, shortly after attending a religious celebration in the old university town of Leon.

Sitting by the poolside at Man-

agua's Intercontinental Hotel in white shirt and blue trousers, Greene gestured with freckled hands as the talk ranged from Nicaragua to British defector Kim Philby and former Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos.

Tall and silver-haired, Greene generally approves of the Sandinista political system.

"I think there is a respect for differences of opinion in Nicaragua (and) a respect for religion," he said.

He is critical of President Reagan's support for guerrillas fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas, but adds: "I'm not a Communist. I'd like to see, as I think Omar Torrijos wanted to see, a social democratic Central

America." Greene has frequently used Latin American countries as settings for his books.

Religion is a dominant theme in his work but he refuses to be thought of as a Catholic novelist. "I am a novelist who happens to be a Catholic," he said.

Asked what he thought of the Roman Catholic hierarchy's criticism of the Nicaraguan government, he said: "I hate it."

Pope John Paul has not disguised his distaste at the participation of Catholic priests in the Sandinista government or at its support for Liberation Theology which sees no contradiction between Marxism and Christianity. Liberation Theology, Greene

argued, was "a natural growth of the Gospels."

Referring to the Vatican as "the politburo" of the Roman Catholic Church, he said Pope John Paul was "the most political Pope we have seen in a long time."

"I see no logic in the fact that he is a political Pope and yet refuses to let priests be political priests."

Talking of his work, Greene believes The Honorary Consul, set in Argentina, is the best novel he ever wrote, because the two main characters "change in the course of the book."

When not travelling, he leads a quiet life in Antibes in the south of France. He lives in a two-bedroomed flat overlooking the port, with a French woman, a

Boniek, Pruzzo goals lift Roma

ROME (R) — Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek scored one goal and set up another to spur Roma to a 2-0 win at Udinese in the Italian first division Sunday.

The result lifted Roma into second place behind Juventus, who dropped their first home point of the season to a tenacious Como side.

The flame-haired Pole ran the length of the Udinese half and stepped over a desperate lunge by goalkeeper Fabio Briati to put Roma ahead in the first half.

After the resumption he sent striker Roberto Pruzzo clear to seal the points.

Como extended their unbeaten run under new manager Rino Marchetti to seven games with an unexpected 0-0 draw at Juventus.

The league leaders went close through Gabriele Pin in the first half but a 35,000 home crowd whistled their disapproval as Juventus lost pace and were forced back into defence by Como, whose point lifted them to fourth from the bottom of the table.

Despite a near miss by Diego Maradona in the ninth minute and constant first-half pressure, Napoli suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat by visiting Pisa.

The defeat left Napoli in third place, one point behind Roma and seven adrift of Juventus.

Dane Klaus Berggreen scored

the winner for Pisa, on a day which brought the unusual statistic of four away wins, against only one home victory in the eight-match programme.

Atalanta, humiliated 4-0 by Roma last Sunday, pulled off one of the surprise results by beating Internazionale 3-1 at the San Siro stadium, at one point leading the home side by three goals.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge converted a late penalty which lifted him to equal leading goalscorer with Aldo Serena of Juventus, but Inter manager Mario Corso must act quickly to restore morale before the team faces Nantes of France in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals in March.

Corso, faced with internal discipline problems, had placed sto-

pper Fulvio Collovati on the substitutes' bench and also rested Irish midfielder Liam Brady for the Atalanta game.

Newly promoted but struggling Lecce missed a penalty in each half and finally allowed AC Milan to walk off with both points.

Pietro Paolo Virdis put the visitors ahead with a penalty after first Franco Causio then Argentine Juan Alberto Barbas had missed Lecce's spot kicks.

England striker Mark Hateley made it 2-0 with a thundering right-foot shot in the 76th minute.

Giuseppe Galderisi, whose goals helped Verona win the championship last season, returned to form with two strikes in their 2-0 home win over Avellino.

Liverpool wins to stay in title hunt

LONDON (Agencies) — Former England striker Paul Walsh scored twice and Ian Rush once Sunday as Liverpool won 3-2 at Watford to move back to third in the English soccer first division.

Walsh, discarded by England manager Bobby Robson in 1984, scored once in each half to steer Liverpool to victory after Watford had taken an early lead through Welsh midfielder Kenny Jackett.

Walsh equalised with a opportunist shot from 15 metres shortly before halftime and Rush put Liverpool ahead with a rasping drive on the turn midway through the second half.

With only 14 minutes remaining, Walsh took advantage of a disastrous back pass to make it 3-1, but Watford replied in the dying minutes when Jan Lohman

tapped the ball home after a blunder by Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

The victory lifted Liverpool to 50 points, level with city rivals Everton and London challengers Chelsea. All are five points behind leaders Manchester United.

Manchester manager fights to keep star striker

Meanwhile, Manchester United soccer manager Ron Atkinson says he will fight to keep Welsh international Mark Hughes at the club, despite press reports that the exiting striker is set to move to Barcelona for a staggering £2 million (\$2.9 million), the biggest transfer deal in English soccer history.

Hughes showed his class in scoring a sensational goal in United's 3-1 league win at Oxford on Saturday and Atkinson admitted afterwards that the 22-year-old star had an option in his new, five-year contract, allowing him to sign for a foreign club.

But the United manager insisted: "Nothing will happen until the last ball has been kicked this season and we have to live in hope that the lad will stay with us."

"The continental clubs can make players millionaires but at United, we also look after our players well and maybe we can do enough to persuade him to stay," he added.

Atkinson said Hughes' goal at Oxford showed how the player, arguably the most skilful and versatile forward in the country, had handled the morning's spectacular

transfer reports. "I thought the speculation might have got to him but he is level-headed and his performance showed it had not affected him at all," he said.

The United manager would not discuss the situation further. "I am putting an embargo on all talk until the summer when it will happen if it is going to. We are not having any distractions now," he said, referring to his team's five-point lead at the top of the English first division.

Three tabloid national newspapers said Hughes, scorer of 13 goals this season, would be sold to Spanish champions Barcelona, one of the biggest soccer clubs in the world and currently managed by Englishman Terry Venables.

Lendl pounds Connors in \$500,000 challenge

ATLANTA (R) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia overwhelmed Jimmy Connors of the U.S. 6-2, 6-3, Saturday in the final of a \$500,000 challenge tournament.

Top prize for the eight-man, round-robin event was \$150,000. Connors collected the runner-up check for \$100,000.

Lendl dominated the entire match, recording 13 aces and four service breaks in a straight-set victory that took one and one-half hours. He broke Connors in the fifth and seventh games of the first set.

In the sixth game, he served three aces in a row and closed out the first set with two aces in the last game.

The second set, which took 50 minutes, was even until the seventh game when Lendl broke Connors after he served his third doublefault of the match.

Connors could not return Lendl's powerful serve effectively and scored several unforced errors on forehand and backhand returns.

Lendl rarely approached the net, winning points easily from the baseline with blistering groundstrokes.

"I was very pleased with the way I played this week," Lendl said following the match. "But don't get carried away with the serves because the balls were fast and especially in my match with Noah (Yannick) (on Thursday), it was impossible to return serve."

Navratilova, Kohde-Kilsch reach

Washington tennis semifinals

Meanwhile, Martina Navratilova swept aside compatriot American Zina Garrison with a 6-1, 6-2 victory in the quarterfinals Saturday of the \$150,000 women's tennis tournament in Washington.

She will face West Germany's Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, who defeated compatriot Bettina Bunge 6-4, 7-5 Saturday.

In winning, Navratilova repeated her 6-1, 6-2 trouncing of Garrison in last year's semifinal. In their 12 meetings to date, Garrison has failed to win even a set against the world's number-one ranked woman's tennis player.

"She's a lot more aggressive than she used to be though," Navratilova said. "But I have something over her in every department. She can't really hurt me with anything because I beat her to the net, my volleys are more powerful, I'm quicker than she is. I don't feel she can overpower me, although her serve has gotten better," she said.

It was a comprehensive defeat for Garrison, who lost in only 58 minutes. She failed to hold serve until she was set and 5-1 down, and by then it was too late to stage any sort of revival.

"I kept trying to put a lot of pressure on her, but she hit a lot of great backhands," Garrison said.

"I didn't serve that bad, although I could have mixed it up a little more. I didn't even play that bad. I think everything's there if my volleys had been a lot stronger I'd have been in there."

Even though I volleyed to the right spot, she'd just run them down," said the fifth seed.

The remaining quarter final between friends and former doubles partners, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, seeded third, and the unseeded Bettina Bunge was a scrappy affair with neither playing

anywhere near their potential.

Bunge blamed her part in a disappointing match on her battle Friday night when she ousted American Kathy Rinaldi.

"I gave that match all I had, and I was just drained today," she said. "I couldn't believe that I couldn't take advantage of her playing so badly, but I played even worse."

Kohde-Kilsch, who is also through to the doubles semifinals with Czechoslovakian partner Helena Sukova, had found it difficult to settle into the game.

2-week African soccer tourney begins in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Tanzania's Young Africans beat Kampala City Council of Uganda 1-0 Saturday in the opening match here of the east and central African soccer club championship.

In another opening match, in the town of Mwanza on Lake Victoria, defending champion Gor Mahia of Kenya and Sudan's Al Merikh drew 1-1.

The Conference of East and Central African Football Associations split the 10-team field into two groups, with Group A playing in Dar Es Salaam and Group B in Mwanza.

The two-week competition ends Jan. 26.

In Dar Es Salaam, Young Africans centre forward Abed Mziba scored the only goal in the 70th minute.

In Mwanza, Al Merikh outside right Ibrahim Mohammad Al Haq scored in the 33rd minute. Gor Mahia tied the game in the 86th minute on a goal by left halfback Abbas Mangongo.

Other teams in Group A are Small Simba of Zanzibar, AFC Leopards of Kenya and Silver Strikers of Malawi. The rest of the field in Group B consists of Mfulira Wanderers of Zambia, Wagad of Somalia and Maji Maji, the 1985 Tanzania national league champion.

The semifinals are to be held Jan. 22 in Mwanza and Dar Es Salaam and the final on Jan. 26 in Dar Es Salaam. Gor Mahia won the 1985 championship in Sudan.

The annual competition began in 1974, with Tanzania hosting the first tourney.

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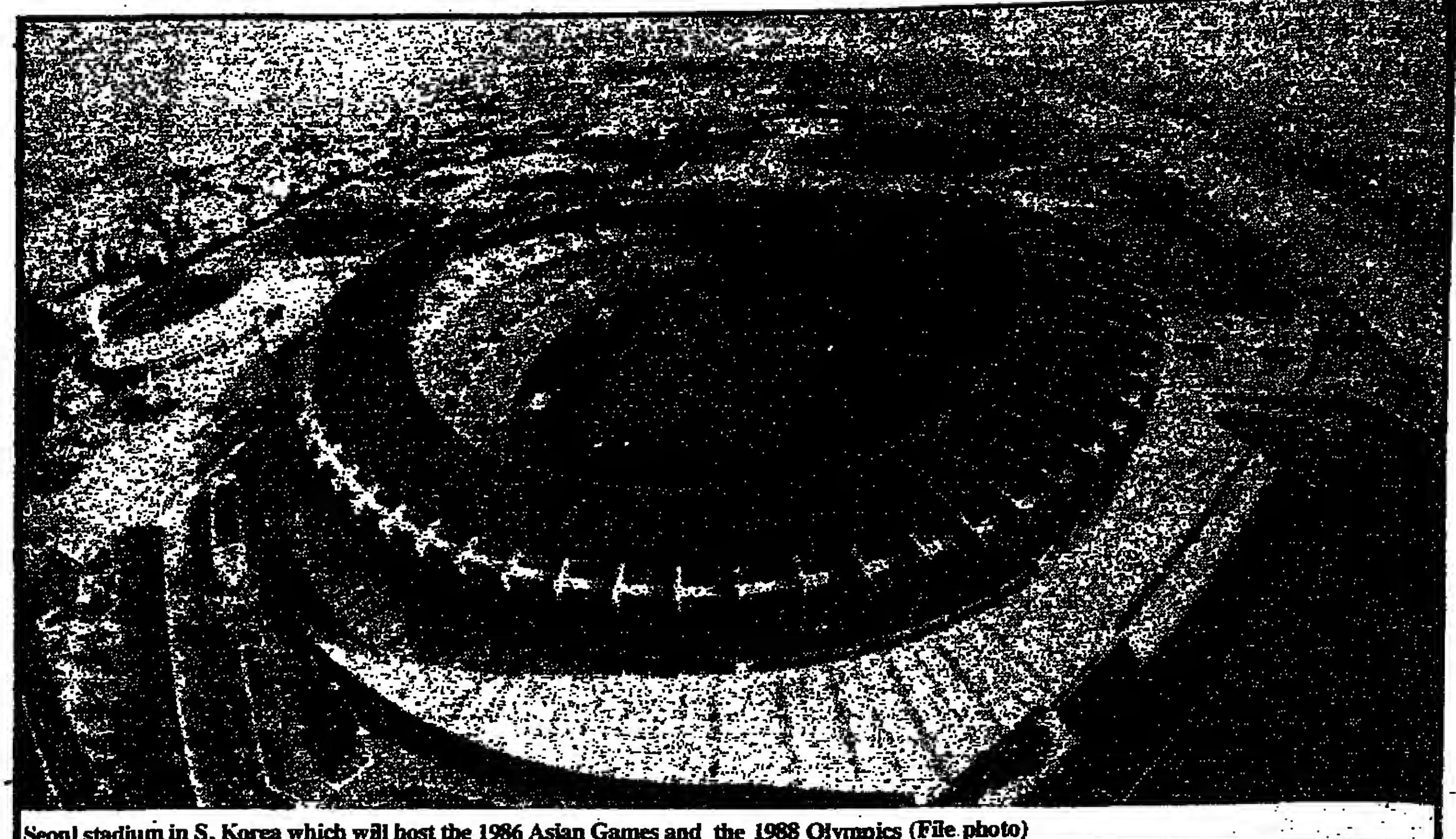
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Seoul stadium in S. Korea which will host the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics (File photo)

Matthews steers Australia to surprise cricket cup win

BRISBANE (R) — Greg Matthews underlined his growing reputation as one of Australia's most improved batsmen by guiding his country to a surprise world series cup one-day cricket win over India Sunday.

Australia, needing 162 in 50 overs, were 48 for five when Matthews came in and decisively tilted

the balance with an unbeaten 46 that clinched victory at 164 for six with 22 deliveries to spare.

All-rounder Matthews, whose defiant batting was one of Australia's rare highlights in the recent tests against New Zealand and India, took the man-of-the-match award after sealing his team's success in their first game.

Peete kicks off PGA tour with record-breaking victory

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — Calvin Peete, who came to La Costa seeking to redeem himself, kicked off the 1986 PGA tour with a front-running, record-breaking, six-stroke victory Saturday in Moby Tournament of Champions.

Peete, the tour's most prolific winner in the last four years, acquired his 11th triumph of his late-starting career with a closing round of 68 and a 267 total.

"I wanted to redeem myself," said Peete, who was disqualified and later fined after taking an undetermined number of strokes, several on a moving ball, on the fifth hole of the first round of this event a year ago.

Peete gave the fans the best four rounds — 68-67-64 and 68 — since the old tournament, which brings together only the winners of PGA tour titles, came to the La Costa country club from Las Vegas in 1969.

His four rounds added up to a 21-under-par total, breaking the tournament scoring record of 268 set by Jerry Barber in Las Vegas in 1960. It's six strokes better than the La Costa scoring record set by Frank Beard in 1971.

Peete, 43, now the winner of 10 titles since the start of the 1982 season — the best record on the American tour — led or shared the lead all the way.

He led by three shots over Mark O'Meara starting the final round — by eight over the rest of the pack — and never gave them a chance.

After five holes of play in bright, warm sunshine, his leading margin was five strokes.

"He just didn't make any mistakes. Never opened the door a

crack," said O'Meara, the only man with any hope of overtaking Peete.

Those hopes vanished when Peete birdied three of four holes starting on the 10th.

The victory was worth \$90,000 to Peete, who did not join the pro golf circuit until he was 32. O'Meara, who had putting difficulties, scored a hard-won 71 over the final 18 holes and took second alone at 273. He collected \$57,000.

Towering Phil Blackmar was third at 69-277.

Scott Verplank, 21, winner of the Western Open last year and the first amateur to play in the 34-year history of this tournament matched par 72 and tied for fourth at 279.

Also at that figure were Danny Edwards, who had a 71, and Masters champion Bernhard Langer of West Germany, with a closing 70.

Sandy Lyle of Scotland, the British Open champion, matched par 72 and had a 285 total.

U.S. Open titleholder Andy North was 74-287. And PGA champ Hubert Green finished last in the field of 31 at 78-306. Defending titleholder Tom Kite slipped to a 75 and finished at 283.

In the separate but concurrent tournament from 1985 winners from the seniors tour, trayear-old Miller Barber scored a five-stroke victory over Arnold Palmer.

Barber collected \$30,000 after a closing round of par 72 and a 282 total. It was the 19th victory on the seniors tour and the 30th of his career.

Palmer was second at 72-287, with Lee Elder next at 72-288.

Paris-Saint-Germain record unbeaten run goes on

PARIS (R) — Paris-Saint-Germain (PSG) sustained their record unbeaten run in the French soccer league when they hit back to draw 1-1 at Brest and maintain a six-point lead over Nantes and Bordeaux Saturday.

A second-half header by PSG captain and international midfielder Luis Fernandez levelled the score after lowly-placed Brest grabbed the lead in the 15th minute through a daring volley by Patrick Bouquet.

It was PSG's 25th game without defeat since the start of the season, a feat never achieved before in French soccer.

The first division leaders, who badly missed the striking power of international Dominique Rocheteau, the league's top scorer with 15 goals, appeared uninspired up front but controlled most of the game thanks to their powerful midfield.

League champions Bordeaux struggled at home to beat bottom-of-the-table Strasbourg. Former West German international Uwe Reinders scored Bordeaux's only goal in the first half from the penalty spot.

Nantes, France's only survivors in European competitions, survived a tough challenge from a tenacious Laval team to score a well-earned goalless away draw.

Tubbs defends heavyweight championship on Friday

ATLANTA, Georgia (AP) — Tony Tubbs makes his first defence of his World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight championship on Friday, Jan. 17, when he fights former World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Tim Witherspoon.

Although the 26-year-old Tubbs has been called a dull fighter, he says Witherspoon's style will make the scheduled 15-round bout an action fight.

"He's got to come forward," Tubbs said of the aggressive Witherspoon. "That will bring the best out of me. This fight will bear me out. A win over Tim Witherspoon will make the public aware there is a top heavyweight on the horizon."

Tubbs has heard the talk that he's a dull fighter. But he knows he's 22-0 in pro fights and has 15 knockouts, that he's the WBA heavyweight champion and that he got there by being a counterpuncher with quick hands and quick feet, belting his 104 kilogramme bulk.

Tubbs also knows that winning is the goal, looking impressive is gravy, often rich gravy, and that it takes two to Tango.

"Greg Page and I tried to counterpunch each other," said Tubbs, who won the title on a unanimous decision in a dull 15-round fight April 29 at Buffalo, New York.

Tubbs isn't about to change his style — "counterpunching is one of the skills of boxing. You know,

boxers last longer than sluggers." A champion describing himself as a fighter on the horizon is unusual, but Tubbs has found himself a champion in a period when boxing's traditionally brightest division is in the shadows.

He shares the heavyweight title with Pinklon Thomas, who is recognised as champion by the WBC, and Michael Spinks, the International Boxing Federation champion who probably is the no. 1 heavyweight in the eyes of the public because of his upset decision win over previously unbeaten Larry Holmes.

"I don't think no other champion would have fought Tim Witherspoon for his first defence," said Tubbs.

It is a risk. Witherspoon lost a 12-round split decision to Holmes in a WBC title bid May 20, 1983 and won the vacant WBC title with a 12-round unanimous decision over Page on March 9, 1984, before losing it on a 12-round unanimous decision to Thomas on Aug. 31, 1984.

"In order to be the best, you've got to beat the best," said Tubbs, who realises winning is not enough, that who you beat also figures into the game when it comes to the bottom line — money.

"I want to fight them all," he said. "I think I can match skills with anyone."

The value of the purse had not been announced a week before the fight but was expected to approach \$1 million.

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Fears of future trends temper coffee producers' cash bonanza

ABIDJAN (R) — Coffee exporters' expectations of a cash bonanza following the recent surge of world prices are tempered by fears for the future of the international coffee pact and worries the market could collapse in the longer term.

Most delegates to a meeting here last week of the 25-member Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO) said they did not believe the rise in the world coffee price to its highest level for over eight years had ended.

But IACO Chairman Denis Bra-Kapone pointed out at a news conference that while firm prices would boost revenues of many African countries, exporters' long-term interests would not be served if the international coffee agreement collapsed.

The current agreement, which dates from 1983, has been one of the most successful international commodity pacts and before the meeting had generally managed to keep world prices within or near to its target range of 120 to 140 cents per pound.

The pact, to which most of the world's major producers and consumers belong, functions by controlling coffee bean supplies via a system of export quotas.

But a severe drought in Brazil, the world's leading producer, has sent prices soaring and the 15-day average price calculated by the London-based International Coffee Organisation (ICO), which administers the pact, was quoted on Friday at 207 cents.

Under ICO rules, quotas are due to be suspended entirely on Feb. 17.

Brazil has estimated its 1986/87 crop, for which harvesting begins in May, at 16.7 million 60-kilogramme bags, down from 29.6 million for the previous season.

The inevitable price impact of a lower Brazilian crop forecast has been fuelled by speculators, who traditionally prefer a rising market, purchasing large numbers of contracts on international coffee futures markets.

The prospect of a further rise guarantees bumper returns in the weeks ahead for African exporters, notably those with large stocks, and for Colombia, the world's number two producer.

"Whoever has stocks of coffee right now is sitting on a goldmine," said one delegate.

The East African state of Kenya, which has sizeable stocks of good quality Arabica beans — the type of coffee most hit by the Brazilian drought — is especially likely to benefit.

Kenyan Agriculture Minister William Odongo Omasio was quoted as saying in a Kenyan daily Saturday that his country would maximise coffee returns this month and next and would no longer distinguish between ICO quota and non-quota markets.

Sales of deary-priced coffee will reduce storage costs and provide cash to enable some of the world's poorest countries to finance development plans, analysts say.

Nearly all the export revenues of the Central African states of

Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda come from coffee, while in the case of other producers, a firm coffee market will help to offset depressed prices for most other Third World commodities.

But this rosy outlook is soured by memories of the way coffee prices soared in 1976/77 due to frost in Brazil, only to slump dramatically in the following few years.

Mr. Bra-Kapone said volatile prices were not in the interest of either exporters or importers and the IACO recommended that ICO market control measures, such as provision of certificates of origin, stay in place after quota suspension to allow the immediate restoration of quotas when prices fall.

The delegates, however, pointed out that doubts over the accord's future had emerged before the latest price surge.

The United States, the world's biggest coffee consumer, last year threatened to pull out of the pact after failing to get penalties for exporters' under-shipments linked to sales to non-ICO members.

Ironically cut-price sales to non-members, which last year undermined the quota system, have now ended as coffee that would normally be sold to non-members has been diverted to stores in free ports in anticipation of quota suspension.

But some delegates said that the latest market trends could persuade the free-market Reagan administration to withdraw.

An agreement based on quotas without U.S. participation would be seriously compromised, the delegates said.

Meanwhile, the \$10 billion a year international coffee trade will, for the immediate future, be genuinely free.

Delegates said exporters able to make good the Brazilian shortfall in the months ahead are likely to use this to justify a bigger market share when quotas are renegotiated.

Soviet papers criticise lagging oil output

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party daily Pravda said Saturday the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, failed to meet production targets for the fifth consecutive year in 1985 and expressed concern that output already is lagging behind planned levels for 1986.

In a front-page article, Pravda criticised officials in charge of the oil industry for dragging their feet in implementing plans to boost production.

Similar criticism was levelled in the national newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya.

They blamed oil industry and government officials for failing to make technological improvements fast enough, especially in the Tyumen region of Western Siberia, which produces about 60 per cent of Soviet oil.

"The plan of last year was not fulfilled," Pravda said, adding that work already is lagging behind the plan for 1986.

"The (oil) ministry, together

with adjoining branches, have worked out the programmes for speeding up scientific and technological progress in working the wells, and the appropriate schedules were composed and the orders were given," Pravda said.

"There have been resolutions, but so far there is little return from them," it added.

Pravda did not provide figures on actual oil production last year. The official target had been set at about 630 million tons.

The news agency TASS reported last fall that oil output for the first nine months of 1985 declined three per cent, to 445 million tons, from the year-earlier period.

Soviet oil output declined for the first time on a year-to-year basis in 1984, falling to 613 million tons from 616.3 million in 1983.

Since then the state-run media have issued repeated calls to improve production facilities and living conditions in the oil fields.

Last February, Soviet Oil Minister, Mr. Nikolai A. Maltsev, was replaced by Mr. Vasily A. Dimkov, former head of the more successful natural gas ministry.

In April, several managers in the Tyumen region were fired for incompetence, Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, visited the region in September, and in a speech he criticised lagging construction and "nitpicking" obstacles by bureaucrats that he said hamper production.

Sovetskaya Rossiya quoted a Tyumen Communist Party official as saying that equipment needed to open 18 new oil deposits to meet the 1986 plan was being delivered slowly, and that roads to new well sites won't be ready on time.

"To compensate for this lack of

oil from new deposits, the oil workers are planning to overload again the old wells," the newspaper said. "However, in last year's plan, this manoeuvre, as is known, didn't help, but just aggravated the situation."

The Soviet Union earns much of the hard currency it needs for grain and high-technology imports from energy sales.

Soviet natural gas output has continued to grow sharply. It increased to 587 billion cubic metres in 1984, the last year for which figures are available, from 536 billion cubic metres the previous year.

Chemical and oil industry machinery minister retires

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian engineer was named Saturday as new minister for chemical and petroleum equipment building, replacing a 78-year-old who had held the job for more than 20 years.

Soviet news media said Mr. Vladimir M. Lukyanenko, now head of a national institute on compressors, would replace Mr. Konstantin I. Brezhnev, who was reported to have retired for health reasons.

Soviet oil workers were quoted as blaming the quality of their equipment in particular for flagging oil output.

TASS said Mr. Lukyanenko was born in 1937 and followed a course of studies in mechanical engineering.

He began work in 1961 at a machine-building plant in the regional town of Sumy in the Ukraine, rising to become general director of the plant in 1976.

Later, he became head of a national compressor institute, TASS said.

Mr. Lukyanenko's biography is typical of the men who recently have risen to replace aged bureaucrats in personnel changes.

So far, about 20 of the Soviet Union's 59 national ministries have gotten new chiefs under Mr. Gorbachev.

Industrialised states to open trade talks

WASHINGTON (R) — Senior ministers of the United States, Canada, Japan and the European Community (EC) meet this week to try to map out a common strategy for global trade liberalisation talks planned for Geneva this autumn.

U.S. and EC officials said the ministers would also tackle some knotty trade problems marring their bilateral ties. The United States has trade deficits with all three.

Officials said the talks, at the southern California resort city of Coronado would centre on several major issues of the planned international session.

The Geneva session is to be formally agreed on at a September meeting of the 90-member world trading group GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

Among the issues to be taken up at the three-day Coronado meeting are counterfeit goods, better ways to settle world trade disputes, rules for aiding domestic industries hurt by imports and subsidising natural resources, such as oil and gas.

U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, will host the meeting, which the four partners hold semi-annually.

High on the agenda of the Coronado talks will be how to stem the flow of counterfeit goods that are flooding Western nations, chiefly the United States.

U.S. officials have long pressed developing Asian nations to clamp down on firms that illegally make and sell patented and copyrighted products — ranging from designer jeans to birth control pills and fertilisers.

Counterfeits are estimated to cost the legal holders of the so-called intellectual rights to the products some \$80 billion in sales annually.

The four are also seeking better and quicker methods to resolve trade disputes between GATT signatories.

Oil prices set to fall sharply soon

LONDON (R) — Oil prices are soon set to fall sharply as Britain and Saudi Arabia battle to sell their crude on shrinking international markets, traders and industry analysts say.

With Saudi Arabia steadily boosting its output and Britain continuing to produce almost flat out from its North Sea fields, prices will almost inevitably drop at least \$6 per barrel, they forecast.

Britain's Brent crude currently trades at about \$25.50 per barrel for cargoes loading this month and the Saudi light grade for some \$2 more.

But one senior trader said: "I think prices at \$18 to \$20 next summer are going to be a fact of life." Other traders and analysts, polled by Reuters agreed with this view.

This price also backs up forecasts made by Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani as long ago as last September.

He then said prices could plunge to between \$15 and \$18 if producers outside OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) did not cooperate with the 13-nation group in stabilising world markets by limiting pro-

duction.

Attempts by former OPEC president, Dr. Subroto, of Indonesia to win support from other producers failed. Analysts say this has led to the confrontation now being played out on world markets.

Some analysts say sub-\$20 prices could come much sooner than the northern hemisphere's spring, when milder weather will cut oil demand.

"We're thinking in terms of weeks rather than months," said Mr. Mehdi Varzi, analyst at stockbrokers Greaveson, Grant.

Since 1980, OPEC oil's share of the non-communist world market has shrunk from some two-thirds to just one-third, undercut by crudes from outside the group.

Last August, once-mighty Saudi Arabia saw its production fall to a humiliating 20-year low of two million barrels a day (b/d) as customers deserted it in droves in favour of cheaper oil, especially from the North Sea.

But then Riyadh got tough. It started offering big discounts by linking prices to the value of oil products and soon its sales shot up.

The industry generally agrees

Saudi Arabia will produce between five and 5.5 million b/d this month.

"At the moment the Saudis are saying 'to hell with the price, we're going to sell as much as possible,'" said Mr. Varzi. "A game of poker is being played (between OPEC and non-OPEC producers) and at the moment no one's willing to stand down."

North Sea prices have fallen some \$5 since early last month when OPEC ministers decided to defend their market share. A ministerial committee will gather on Feb. 3 to decide how large this share should be and how to defend it.

Pumping oil from under the hostile North Sea is expensive. But Saudi Arabia's costs are a matter of cents per barrel, putting it at an advantage in any price war.

"Presumably if oil prices go below \$20 you'll see some major rethinking among North Sea producers," said Mr. Varzi. But he added: "The Saudis are looking for major concessions" before they would consider cutting production.

Although Britain's government says it will not interfere in North

Sea output — a policy that has led oil companies to produce as much as possible — it has the legal right to order cuts. But Mr. Varzi stressed he saw no sign of this happening at the moment.

Mr. Mike Unsworth of stockbrokers Scott, Goff, Layton doubted whether OPEC would see a price war through. "In the short term they'll try to force non-OPEC producers to negotiate," he said, but eventually loss of income would force them to back off.

Many OPEC countries rely almost entirely on oil revenue whereas developed nations such as Britain find it an important, but not essential, contribution to income.

The chief losers would be cash-strapped producers with large populations to feed, such as Indonesia and Nigeria in OPEC and Mexico and Egypt outside.

Jakarta last week decided to prune heavily its development budget.

But there are glimmers of hope. Prices could perk up a few dollars towards next winter as demand picks up, said Mr. Unsworth.

U.S. sees vital element in privatisation

WASHINGTON (R) — Strange as it seems, Washington's busy government-owned national airport might soon be for sale. So might the U.S. postal service and several electric power generating plants.

Any or all of them are expected to be on a list of targets drawn up by the Reagan administration in pursuit of a strategy to reduce towering budget deficits by selling to private industry assets considered inefficient or nonessential.

The approach is not only in line with President Ronald Reagan's professed desire for lessening the role of government in Americans' lives, but appears to follow also from an unabashed admiration for Britain's success in privatising bil-

lions of dollars worth of government services under Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

White House officials, commenting on the Thatcher government's sale of nationalised British Telecom and other companies with an overall price tag of about \$20 billion, said Britain has "showed how to do it and how to do it with imagination."

Besides companies, the British government has sold nearly one million public housing units to private owners, contracted many health and welfare services out to private concerns and announced its intention to transfer key parts of the social welfare system to the private sector.

With a new federal budget expected to go to Congress as early as Feb. 3, and Mr. Reagan still insisting taxes cannot be raised nor cuts made in defence or social security benefits, attention has turned increasingly to plans for putting U.S. government assets on the auction block.

Mr. Stuart Butler of the conservative Heritage Foundation commented in an interview that there were big political benefits for the administration from using this tactic to divert demand for government services into the private sector.

The really attractive feature, if it is done properly, is that you're not eliminating a service so the

government can cut its spending without saying 'no' to the citizens," he said.

Under the whip of balanced-budget legislation, signed into law last month by Mr. Reagan, the administration must present proposals for lowering the deficit by about \$55 billion to meet a target of \$144 billion for the 1987 fiscal year which begins Oct. 1.

Failure to achieve the deficit goals would trigger automatic spending reductions that would cut into not only domestic spending programmes but also defence — a possibility administration officials fervently want to avoid.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds some delays and obstacles in the path of the conditions you want to put into motion, so don't try to push, but do them in a conscientious manner.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Keep busy solving problems and they are soon behind you, so don't go off on any tangents.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get into interesting new activities and forget troubles that are annoying you. Get a new lease on life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may find that both bigwigs and partners can be disappointing in daytime but can be very cooperative in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy at important work you have to do and don't leave it just for pleasure. Get it finished early.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make sure you handle important work and pay pressing bills before you take off with a good friend for recreation.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be sure to schedule your time and activities so that there will be no conflict between your family and a partner now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get important correspondence handled early, and then see how best to make improvements in your environment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Schedule your time so that you can give attention to business matters and creative ones as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may disagree with kin over personal matters but eventually come to the right meeting of minds.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Forget that private worry and go out and accomplish a great deal that is worthwhile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy at business matters and avoid friends who could prove disappointing today. Get advice from experts.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't permit a bigwig to discourage you with the handling of your job and think of your own personal betterment.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one of those fascinating young people who will buckle down to working long and hard hours but can easily develop a martyr complex if the remuneration is not adequate, so teach to consider this before a job is accepted. A good family person in this chart.

THE Daily Crossword by John Olsen

ACROSS

- Celebration
- Gum tree of India
10. Bitter
14. Buck character
15. Related maternally
16. Aiden tree
17. Cordage fiber
18. Lease again
19. Carol
20. Intense
22. Neck feather
24. Large number
26. Name
28. Lament
29. False displacement
30. South Sea Islands
34. Increase
36. Purpose
37. Good of time
38. Meeting
39. The Old Sod
40. Yurt
41. Joyous Carol
42. Statement of belief
43. Hanged
44. Flowery term
45. Acoustic plant
46. Tabland
47. Chapter
48. Backed with money
49. Shrouded tree
50. Myster
51. Recognition
52. Rite
53. Folding frame
54. Track bar
55. Sire of old
56. Cider
57. Early loss

DOWN

1. Dancer
2. Author name
3. Whip
4. Inferred
5. Deprived of
6. About
7. Laid
8. American
9. Outwear
10. Neutralize
11. Frozen
12. Power supplier
13. Part of ESG
14. Frog genus
15. Wings
16. Cleverly
17. Sacred lyric
18. Vamp
19. Included with
20. Whining one
21. Decayed
22. Stage whisper
23. Silent
24. Chilled
25. Mad scribble
26. Gareth's career
27. Glacial change
28. Excess
29. Tender
30. UNW number
31. Shrewd
32. Primate
33. Heble or Hoanca
34. Safety unit
35. So long, Mario
36. Aelan chief
37. Strike out
38. Grail

German arms managers go on trial today

BONN (R) — Officials of a leading West German arms firm go on trial in Düsseldorf on Monday charged with illegal weapons exports in a case which the country's arms industry says could have major implications for its future.

Three middle-grade managers of the Rheinmetall Company and a former employee are accused of flouting a strict government ban on the sale of military hardware to areas of tension.

The four are alleged to have secured government approval to supply buyers in Italy, Spain and Paraguay with arms between 1977 and 1980, knowing that the weapons would be channelled from there to South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Argentina.

Rheinmetall, whose products include the canon for the advanced Leopard-2 battle tank, insists the men are innocent.

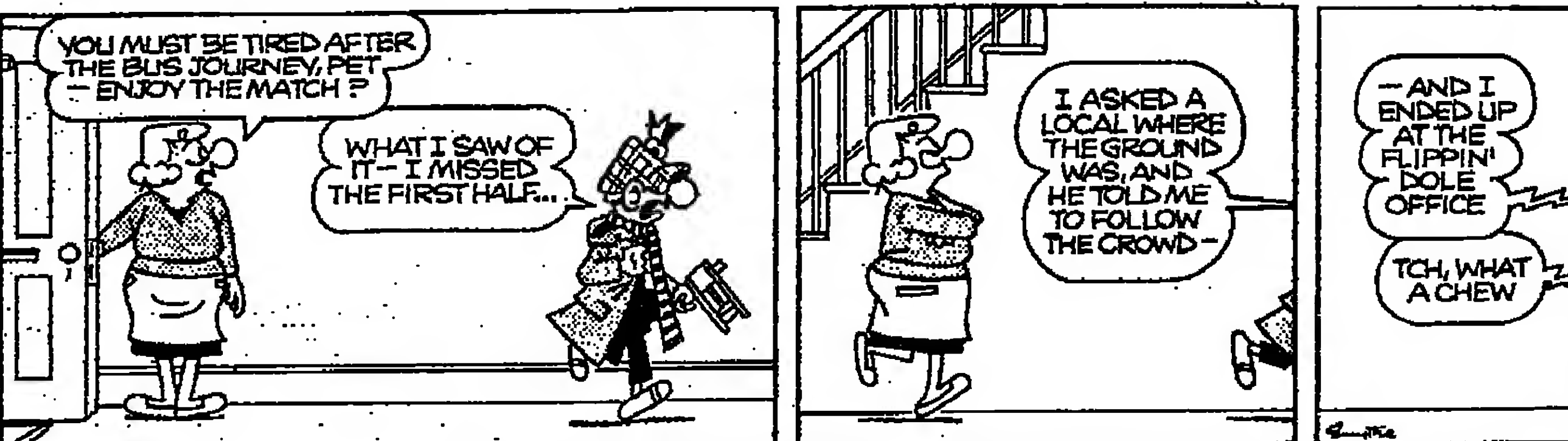
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TELIT
RADAW
RAYLEY
VIRFED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: JETTY NOOSE TURKEY RECTOR

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: What he got when he bought that stock—STUCK

Spaniards, Portuguese to assume seat in European Parliament

BRUSSELS (R) — Spanish and Portuguese members of the European Parliament take their seats in Strasbourg today as the assembly prepares to give grudging approval to modest reforms in the European Community's (EC) founding treaty.

To mark the historic occasion, a special plane bringing all 84 new members to the first session of 1986 will be met at Strasbourg airport by the president of the parliament, Pierre Pflimlin, and other dignitaries.

The Iberian representatives, who qualified for their seats following the official entry of Spain and Portugal on New Year's Day, swell the total number of parliamentarians to 518.

The enlarged parliament will then turn its attention to delivering its verdict on reforms agreed at last month's EC summit in Brussels which fall far short of its dream of a European union in which it can command a say equal to that of member governments.

The Strasbourg assembly must

effectively decide whether to vote down or back the package of minor reforms tortuously worked out by EC leaders at the Luxembourg summit. They would slightly ease the cumbersome workings of the group and give parliament more powers while leaving the final say in the hands of member governments.

Italy has said it would withhold its support from the package if the European parliamentarians rejected it, effectively giving them a right of veto.

But parliament sources said that, despite its disappointment, the assembly is likely to swallow its pride and back the measures after voicing severe criticism.

"It is a bitter pill, but the general feeling is that it's better than

nothing," one spokesman said.

Parliament's powerful institutional committee which led the fight for radical reforms has toned down its previous criticism of the Luxembourg package. It is now recommending qualified acceptance of the package while noting the failure of national capitals to take real steps towards European union.

The 20 new Portuguese and 64 Spanish entrants introduce the first fresh blood into the chamber since 1980 when Greece joined the EC, but will not affect its overall balance.

The Iberian members have been chosen by their respective parliaments and not directly elected like other members of the assembly. Spanish and Portuguese voters will have their first chance to elect their representatives at the next European elections in 1989.

With the addition of 36 Spaniards and six Portuguese, the socialists remain the largest group and now command 172 votes.

Exiles said to have swelled ANC

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Thousands of militants have left South Africa in the last 18 months to swell the ranks of the exiled African National Congress (ANC) liberation movement, an ANC African newspaper reported on Sunday.

City Press, South Africa's main black paper, quoted exile sources as saying the exodus was larger than in 1976 when about 4,000 people left the country for commando training abroad.

It said the ANC, fighting to topple the white minority rule in South Africa, had an estimated 7,000 trained fighters in 1984 and the number was now far higher.

ANC President Oliver Tambo said at a news conference in the Zambian capital of Lusaka last week that the ANC was calling for a "rapid, extensive escalation" of its military offensive.

The reported swelling of the ANC's ranks coincides with a wave of political violence in South Africa which has claimed the lives of more than 1,050 people in the last two years.

The Sunday Star newspaper reported that the ANC launched a record number of armed attacks in South Africa last year.

The Pretoria-based Institute of Strategic Studies told the newspaper that there were 136 armed attacks in 1985 compared with 44 in 1984.

There has been a marked increase in guerrilla attacks in the last few months. Eight whites have died in landmine blasts near South Africa's northern border in the last month and five whites were killed when a bomb exploded at an Indian Ocean holiday resort in December.

Johannesburg police said on Sunday at least five people were injured in anti-apartheid unrest in South Africa's black townships during the night.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said four people were injured in Johannesburg's Alexandra township Saturday in clashes between black residents and security forces after a funeral.

One of the injured was a policeman who broke a leg and a shoulder jumping out of an armoured personnel carrier when a petrol bomb landed inside.

Three other men were injured when police fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowd, police said.

Another policeman was slightly injured when his vehicle was stoned in Zwarte township in western Cape province.

Fresh violence fuels fears in Punjab

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Gunmen shot dead a doctor and wounded a second person in Punjab shortly after a senior police officer predicted that Sikh extremists would step up attacks in the North Indian state.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said the doctor was killed by suspected extremists in his clinic in the Barnala area Saturday night. Hours later gunmen wounded a man riding on a scooter in northern Hoshiarpur district.

A third man died of injuries received in an extremist attack in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar on Jan. 6. Thirteen people have now been killed in extremist violence in Punjab since Monday.

Amritsar district police chief S.S. Virk said on Saturday he expected more violence because large numbers of Sikh extremists were crossing into Punjab from Pakistan after Indian security forces

relaxed patrols on the border.

India has accused Pakistan of providing shelter to Sikh extremists, a charge Pakistan rejects.

Official sources said thousands of Sikhs fled to Pakistan after troops stormed their holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, in 1984 to oust extremists fighting for a separate state in Punjab.

Police said security, tightened for a protest road blockade in Punjab on Friday, would be maintained until after Indian Republic Day on Jan. 26 when more trouble was expected.

Three people were killed during the blockade, called by the militant All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) to press demands including the release of all jailed suspected Sikh extremists.

Jan. 26 has been set by the AISSF as the date for the demolition and the rebuilding of the Akal Takht, one of the Sikhs' holiest buildings. It was damaged in

the Golden Temple action.

The Akal Takht was repaired under government supervision, but hardline Sikhs consider the rebuilding to be unholy.

Another flashpoint on Republic Day could be a dispute over Chandigarh, scheduled to become Punjab's exclusive capital on Jan. 26 under a peace accord. The city is now the joint capital of Punjab and neighbouring Haryana state.

Analysts say the confrontation on Republic Day will determine the future of Sikh politics. This has spurred fears that the authorities again may have to send police into the Golden Temple.

A senior police official, who asked not to be named, told the AP Punjab authorities now have asked for an additional 46 paramilitary companies — totalling 6,165 troops — to increase security forces to more than 81,000 by Jan. 26.

Dhaka hopeful over end to tribal revolt

DHAKA (R) — Military commanders negotiating peace with tribal guerrillas in Bangladesh's southern hill tracts district said on Sunday the rebels might give up their arms and return to normal lives soon.

The 13,000 square-kilometre area of dense forest and rugged hills has for years been the scene of battles between troops and tribal rebels seeking political autonomy. More than 6,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

"But we hope the home of nearly 30 tribes will become a valley of peace soon," said Major Mohammad Mawla, one of the government negotiators.

Major Mawla told Reuters talks with the rebels were making progress and many guerrillas had already decided to return to normal

lives. He declined to give details.

More than 3,500 rebels, members of the outlawed Shanti Bahini (Peace Force), surrendered during an 18-month amnesty which ended last April and the government hoped most of the remaining 3,000 guerrillas would lay down their arms shortly, he said.

Col. Mawla said the rebels might decide to surrender en masse following a government pledge not to charge them for insurgency and instead give them money and jobs to rehabilitate them in society.

The worst violence hit the hill tracts, which border Burma and India's Assam state, three years ago after the government started

resettling thousands of people from the crowded plains in the area.

In protest the guerrillas killed nearly 200 settlers, wounded 1,000 others and burned their homes. They complained that the government was trying to destroy their culture, steal their land and gradually turn them into a minority.

The insurgency weakened after one of the main leaders, Manabendra Lama, was killed in a shootout shortly afterwards and many of his followers surrendered.

Officials told Reuters the rebels had also lost support of several tribal chieftains who wanted a negotiated settlement.

Sri Lankan rebels call off ceasefire

NEW DELHI (R) — Tamil guerrillas groups said on Sunday they were calling off an eight-month-old truce with Sri Lankan security forces, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

The news agency quoted a spokesman for the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLFF) alliance of Tamil groups as saying the ceasefire failed because of what he described as Sri Lankan army atrocities.

The spokesman, speaking in the South Indian city of Madras, said the guerrillas would now take defensive action to protect the minority Tamils in the ethnic conflict with the island's Sinhalese majority.

Indian mediation led to a truce between the two sides in June and

paved the way for peace talks between the guerrillas and Sri Lankan officials in Bhutan.

A 11-member committee was set up in October to monitor the ceasefire but violations by both sides have been reported almost daily.

The ENLFF spokesman said two Tamil members on the committee had quit after one was attacked by security forces and the other was threatened by unidentified people.

He said alliance leaders would meet soon in Madras to discuss their next step and brief the Indian government on their stand regarding the truce and the monitoring committee.

The ENLFF and other Tamil separatist groups have offices in

Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state where 50 million people have close links with Sri Lanka's Tamils.

Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told volunteer army recruits on Saturday to maintain discipline even under provocation.

At least 15 Tamil guerrillas and one soldier were killed on Friday in stepped raids on rebel hideouts in northern Sri Lanka.

In Colombo, the national news agency Lankapuwath said President Junius Jayewardene had accepted the resignations of the two Tamil members of the ceasefire committee.

It gave no reasons why K. Sivathambi and K. Sivapalan had quit.

Explorers reach South Pole; support ship crushed in ice

LONDON (Agencies) — Three Britons retracing the Antarctic journey of explorer Robert F. Scott reached the South Pole on Saturday, but the support ship sent to take them home has been crushed by the ice and sunk, the expedition organiser said.

Peter Christopherson, the London-based organiser, said Robert Swan, 26, Roger Mear, 35, and Gareth Wood, 33, had reached the pole at 11:53 p.m. GMT after an 1,341 kilometre trek.

Mr. Christopherson said no one was hurt in the loss of the ship, the Southern Quest, which had been moored at an ice floe near Cape Evans and the Jack Hayward base camp.

All 24 crew were rescued from the ice by a U.S. helicopter and were taken to the American base at McMurdo for medical checks, he said.

Mr. Christopherson said the single-engine plane carried on board had been taken off before the accident and would be flown to the South Pole to pick up the three men after their walk, according to plan.

Pilot Giles Kershaw was to ferry two of the men back to base and then return to the pole to pick up the third man and the equipment.

Once back at the Jack Hayward base, the whole expedition, including Dr. Mike Stroud and film

cameraman John Tolson who waited at the camp, was to sail back to Lyttelton, New Zealand.

On Nov. 2, 1911, Scott set off from Jack Hayward and arrived at the pole Jan. 18, 1912, shortly after Norwegian Roald Amundsen became the first man to reach the pole. Scott and his four companions perished on the return trip.

The three new explorers set out on Nov. 2, 1984, 74 years to the day since Scott began his journey. Like Scott, they carried no radio equipment and received no outside back-up of any kind.

The three were last sighted on Dec. 10 as they approached the Beardmore glacier, the most dangerous part of the journey. They walked and skied for a year, each dragging a sleigh of provisions, eating the same menu of dried and instant food every day plus 250 grammes of butter each to keep up the fat level, Mr. Christopherson said.

The \$1.5 million expedition was sponsored by 700 companies, for which the four conducted research and experiments such as testing equipment in temperatures ranging from minus 15 to minus 20 degrees Celsius and measuring the level of pollution in the ocean.

They were originally expected back in London in mid-February.

Venezuela appeals to Contadora to continue peace effort

CARABALLEDA, Venezuela (R) — Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi has told eight American foreign ministers that the Contadora group's efforts for peace in Central America must continue.

"Contadora has not died, nor can it die, because Contadora is more than an ideal of peace, it is a will, it is a conviction," Mr. Lusinchi said in a speech at the start of the two-day meeting in this seaside resort on Saturday.

The gathering was called by Venezuela to try to pump new life into the Contadora initiative, sagging after three years of fruitless work since its creation by Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

Attending the meeting were the foreign ministers of the four Contadora nations and those of a support group made up of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay.

Most of the foreign ministers flew in Friday night and held an informal meeting on Saturday.

"We carried out an extremely crude and realistic analysis of the situation and the immense difficulties facing... attempts to bring peace to Central America," Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said afterwards.

The conclusions of this weekend's meeting are to be put to Central American leaders at the inauguration on Tuesday of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, which will be attended by all eight foreign ministers present at Caraballeda.

Five Central American heads of state will witness Mr. Cerezo's swearing-in, in the first meeting of its kind since the Nicaraguan revolution of 1979.

Mr. Lusinchi told the ministers on Saturday that peace in Latin America and the Caribbean hinged on a settlement of Central American conflicts.

Three of the six countries in the region are fighting guerrilla insurgencies and, while Cuba and the Soviet Union are strongly behind leftist Nicaragua, Washington supports Nicaraguan rebels and the embattled government of El Salvador.

Summing up Contadora's achievements since it was founded on its namesake Panamanian island resort in January 1983, Mr. Lusinchi said it had helped ward off "a greater rupture of the peace."

Chinese leaders defend economic reforms

PEKING (R) — China's leaders are fiercely defending their economic reforms amid signs of fresh criticism from Communist Party diehards who say the measures have spawned rising prices, corruption and power abuses.

Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun passionately praised the reforms to 8,000 party, military and government officials at a conference in the Great Hall of the People.

In his speech last week, given blanket coverage by the country's main newspapers on Sunday, Mr. Tian said the last six years had been among China's best since the Communists took power in 1949.

Living standards had risen rapidly and major advances had been made in science, technology and education following six years of reforms masterminded by Deng Xiaoping.

"But, despite these major achievements, there still remain a large number of problems and difficulties," he said, adding there was great public concern over

"malpractices and the illegal gain of enormous profits."

The account of Mr. Tian's speech followed a stern lecture by party chief Hu Yaobang to a rally, also last week, in which he accused many administrators of lacking discipline, indulging in favouritism or dishonesty and sacrificing their dignity in trade deals with foreigners.

Mr. Hu, urging a crackdown on lawbreakers, said citizens had the right to report serious wrongdoings by their superiors, including the central committee itself.

The speeches by Mr. Tian and Mr. Hu coincide with stories of rampant corruption splashed daily across the front pages of China's newspapers. State auditors have uncovered fraud, waste and tax evasion totalling 8.9 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) since September 1983. The corruption is posing a threat to Mr. Deng's drive to turn China into a major economic

power by the 21st century.

Mr. Deng retired many of China's veteran party cadres and promoted younger men last autumn in a move designed to stifle criticism of his reforms. But he still faces hardcore opposition in the government, party and military.

A Western diplomat said the reformists were on the defensive against critics. "But their political position is still strong. Despite discontent below, they still hold the key posts. No viable alternative strategy or leadership has yet emerged," he added.

In what diplomats saw as a tilt at party diehards, Mr. Hu said in his speech: "We have to oppose not only the tendency of bourgeois liberalisation, which considers Marxism outdated, but also the erroneous tendency to consider Marxist theories as stereotyped dogmas."

Mr. Tian said: "Our economic reforms will absolutely not lead to capitalism."

Tension eases in Bolivian narcotics area as farmers end siege of police camp

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Most of the estimated 17,000 coca leaf farmers encircling a camp of 245 narcotics officers quit their siege on Saturday and military intervention will not be needed, officials said.

Edgar Merwin, Washington's adviser to the U.S.-financed narcotics unit, said fewer than 100 growers still surrounded the elite "Leopards" police camp, although roads to the camp remained blocked and farming leaders threatened violence if the police did not leave the area.

The officers have been trapped in their remote camp in central Bolivia since Tuesday by coca farmers angered by the government campaign to disrupt cocaine production. Cocaine is made from the coca leaf.

The farmers also contend that two drug-trafficking officers raped a local woman.

Leaders of the local farmers federation said in a statement released to reporters on Saturday that "acts of violence and confrontations may result if the Leopards remain in the area and continue committing abuses."

But Colonel Guido Lopez, Bolivia's top narcotics officer, said that because fewer coca leaf farmers were manning roadblocks cutting off the Leopards from food supplies, there was no need for military intervention.

The police camp is at Ivagazama, a village in Bolivia's tropical Chapare region.

The government said on Friday it might have to send troops to rescue the police.

But Col. Lopez said on Saturday: "It is no longer necessary to send troops because farmers are returning to their normal activities."

Mr. Merwin said the roadblocks

were now manned mainly by drug traffickers, and growers were losing interest.

"There is no doubt cocaine traffickers are behind the blockade," said Mr. Merwin, who has maintained regular radio contact with the Leopards camp.

The Leopards were set up in 1983 with financial help from the U.S. government. Mr. Merwin is a former special forces officer contracted by the State Department to advise and train the unit.

The United States, the major market for the cocaine, has said it will cut off aid to Bolivia unless it reduces coca production by nearly 10,000 acres. American aid since President Victor Paz Estenssoro was sworn in Aug. 6 has totalled \$64.5 million.

Beginning in December, the Bolivian government promised farmers \$350 for every hectare they take out of coca production.

There are 2,441 Americans listed as missing in action in Indochina. Most — 1,797 men — were reported missing in Vietnam, with 556 unaccounted for in Laos and the rest lost in Kampuchea.

"We're not going over there to find anybody, or dig up any remains, but we are the voice of the American people," Mr. Murkowski said.

"Logic dictates we're not going to find every single one of those missing in action, but this issue must be resolved to a reasonable satisfaction, and I don't think we've reached that point yet."

Long-distance love affair proves hoax for South Korean

DHAKA (R) — A 60-year-old South Korean man flew from Libya to Bangladesh clutching a bag of jewels and cash for the girl of his dreams — only to find he had been cheated by one of his employees. The woman whose photograph aroused the passion of businessman Kun Jo Ham turned out to be a top film star, married with two children — and she had never heard of him. An anguished Kun told reporters his long-distance love affair was invented by a Bangladeshi worker, Saber Ali, in his firm in Libya. For several years he had told him he was negotiating Kun's marriage with a Bangladeshi girl named Shabana. "Ali even showed me photographs of my beautiful fiancée, brought me her letters and in return collected handsome gifts," he said. Kun flew to Bangladesh to claim his bride and even went to a remote village which Ali said was her ancestral home. "But friends here now tell me, after seeing the photographs, that Shabana is a top film heroine, married to a wealthy businessman and has two children," he said. "Everything was a hoax and I don't know what I'll do with the bastard if I get hold of him back in Libya." Kun added.

Kun added.

Officials told Reuters the rebels had also lost support of several tribal chieftains who wanted a negotiated settlement.

The senator has 60,000 veterans, more than 10 per cent of Alaska's population, in his sparsely settled state.

Sen. Murkowski plans hearings on possible sightings of live Americans in South-East Asia when he returns from his nine-day journey.

Accompanying him to Vietnam, Laos and Thailand are Sen. Dennis DeConcini and representatives Michael Bilirakis and Bob McEwen, both on the House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. DeConcini said he opposes any normalisation of relations with Vietnam until questions over the issue of missing Americans are answered to U.S. satisfaction.

En route to Hanoi, the delegation will stop at Clark Air Force Base outside Manila for a briefing on the Feb. 7 presidential election in the Philippines.

Mr. Murkowski's fact-finding mission follows the visit of a high-ranking team from the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan that met last week in Hanoi with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

The Vietnamese told that delegation they hope to resolve the issue of Americans missing in Vietnam and off its shores before the end of next year. The Vietnamese government also announced it has collected information about 50 servicemen killed in the war, and would turn it over in late February.

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Last week six Americans, some of whom said they personally saw American prisoners as recently as four months ago in Vietnam and Laos, filed suit in U.S. district court in Fayetteville, North Carolina, charging the Reagan administration with quashing witness accounts. The charges have been denied by administration officials.

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — The Swiss supreme court has ruled that a Zurich court was wrong to deny a prostitute compensation for lost earnings, after she was seriously injured in a car accident. The court said on Saturday prostitution might offend against public morals but was not illegal. Because prostitutes paid tax and national insurance contributions on their earnings they had the same rights as ordinary citizens. Following the 1971 accident, the unnamed Zurich woman, then aged 27, demanded more than two million francs (now, worth more than \$1 million) for medical costs, compensation and lost earnings until her 45th birthday.

DUBLIN (R) — Pop stars on Saturday joined hundreds of fans at the funeral of Irish rock musician Phil Lynott, who died a week ago. Lynott, 35, former leader of the group Thin Lizzy, collapsed on Christmas Day and died 13 days later of pneumonia and heart failure. Among the stars at the funeral in the Dublin suburb of Howth were fellow Irishmen Bob Geldof, organiser of the Live Aid concert for African famine relief, and Bono, leader of the rock group U2.

Swiss court awards compensation for lost earnings of prostitute

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ K
♦ A J 5 3
♦ J 9 7 2
♦ A 9 6 3

WEST
♦ A Q 5 3
♦ K 10 9 4
♦ 10 5
♦ 8 5 4

EAST
♦ J 10 9 8 6
♦ Q 7 2
♦ 4
♦ K J 10 2

SOUTH
♦ 7 2
♦ 9 8
♦ A K Q 8 6 3
♦ Q 7

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ 1 ♣
Pass Pass 4 ♣ Pass
5 ♣ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♣.

So you pride yourself on your defensive ability. Cover up the East and South cards and decide how you would defend against five diamonds after your ace of spades wins the first trick.

Most players using five-card major methods would open the North hand with one diamond. The only difference that would have made to the final contract is that North would have been declarer at five diamonds, and the contract would have been much harder to defeat had the North hand been con-

cealed.
Against five diamonds you lead the ace of spades, which holds. What are your prospects?
It would seem that you have to hope for a heart